

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?

[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Another chance for landlords to get free and expert advice

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

09 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

More people are thinking of becoming landlords as an investment opportunity and Suffolk Coastal is keen to keep them as informed as possible about the legal obligations that face them and their tenants.

Next month offers a chance to get some free expert advice and information at Suffolk Coastal's seminar for landlords and agents which is being held on Wednesday, November 1 in the Council Chamber at the Council's Melton Hill offices.

"These seminars are extremely popular with landlords as a simple way of finding out all the latest news. Landlords have an increasingly important role to play in providing quality rented accommodation for the people of the district and this Council is ready to help them," said Councillor Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

"The evening offers landlords a chance to learn something new and also to meet and quiz our officers and some local experts in an informal environment.

"We would like to see more rented accommodation being made available to local people and landlords may not be aware of the assistance we can offer, particularly if they are willing to rent to those in receipt of housing benefit. This is probably an ideal chance for anyone thinking about letting their property privately to come along and find out more," added Councillor Slemmings.

The event should be useful to both individual and corporate landlords as well as owners of single properties and properties in multiple occupation. Speakers from the Citizens Advice Bureau, Rent Officer Service, Coastal Homeless Action Group and Suffolk Coastal Housing team will be giving brief presentations on their work with landlords. John Zebedee, an independent Benefits Trainer and writer will also be giving a helpful talk on housing benefit and local housing allowance. Mr Zebedee has given many such talks to Housing Associations, advice and law centres throughout the UK.

The seminar is being held in Suffolk Coastal's Council Chamber at its Melton Hill Offices, and runs from 5.30pm through to 7pm. Places are limited so advance bookings can be made by calling 01394 444838, by emailing benefits@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or faxing 01394 444554.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

New group is working for the future of the Felixstowe & Trimley Peninsula



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

10 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

A press release from the Felixstowe & Trimleys Future Group

This month has seen the second meeting of the Felixstowe & Trimleys Future Group, the new partnership that has the ambitious aim of delivering a vision and strategy that will map out the future development of the Felixstowe Peninsula.

Chaired by Stephen Bracewell, Vice-Chair of the Haven Gateway Partnership, the group includes the leading public and private organisations that will be the key to helping meet the needs of the local communities in the peninsula.

"This group's goal is to build on the foundations laid by the recent David Lock Associates report for the Felixstowe Peninsula that was published earlier this year and other related studies," said Mr Bracewell.

The report highlighted the major challenges facing the town, including demographics, housing, local economy, education and transport.

"We know, for example, that the current demand for new homes from the local community is not being met, and that without new homes the population will both decrease and become older on average, schools would be under threat, and there would be even more traffic on our roads as more people have to commute into the town.

"This group recognises the need to address positively the challenges facing the peninsula and we have included all the key partners who are going to be making the important decisions in future.

"By linking up this way, we are aiming to ensure there is a co-ordinated approach to delivering a stable and managed development of the Peninsula that will guarantee its future prosperity and meet the needs and wants of the local communities," added Mr Bracewell.

As well as delivering a vision & strategy for the peninsula, the Group will co-ordinate discussions with other external agencies and statutory bodies who will be involved in building its future.

To turn development schemes into reality, the Group also intends to identify and access appropriate funding from regional, national and even international sources, and will promote and market the area to help attract the necessary investment.

"This will not be a talking shop, it is a group that only exists to deliver a future the Felixstowe and Trimley peninsula needs, and the voices of the community are represented heavily by their locally elected representatives," added Mr Bracewell.

As well as the Haven Gateway Partnership, the group includes members from the area's local councils, its business community, and key organisations such as EEDA.





2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?


[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Rural businesses urged to tap into support


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

10 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

Independent rural businesses across the district are being urged to tap into the expertise and funding on offer from the Suffolk Rural Services Scheme.

This special initiative is aimed at helping independent village shops, pubs or garages to improve or increase the service they offer to their local communities.

“This scheme has been relaunched this year in a revised and improved way so that it can provide better assistance to those businesses that are the bedrock of our rural communities,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

“One of the key goals of the LSP is to maintain and increase the access to services in our rural areas and we are proud to financially support this important initiative which helped four of our local businesses last year.

“It provides business and funding advice, and offers grants of up to £5,000 towards meeting half the project costs of any proposed expansions in the service that could benefit the local area. I would urge any local independent rural business to contact the scheme to see if they can help them to help provide an even better service,” added Councillor Herring.

The scheme also has a community section that will fund essential rural community services such as childcare provision or maintenance of village halls.

The scheme runs across the county and has been made possible thanks to grants from the East of England Development Agency, as well as Suffolk Coastal LSP, district and borough councils with rural areas such as Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council, and the Suffolk Development Agency.

“This is an excellent example of partnership working to help provide the funding and expertise to help businesses develop and maintain their competitive edge, as shown by last year’s successes in our district at Bredfield, Hollesley, Otley and Peasenhall,” added Councillor Herring.

Anyone wanting to find out if they are eligible for help can contact Stephen Watt or Dawn Smith at Suffolk County Council on 01473 264832 or 01473 264817 or email

stephen.watt@suffolkcc.gov.uk or visit

www.suffolk.gov.uk/BusinessAndConsumer/RegenerationAndCommunityDevelopment/RuralandCommunity/ for more information.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

A solar powered night on offer for local residents



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

13 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

More people than ever are interested in turning their homes green, and the demand for alternative energy supplies has led to local residents being offered another chance to learn more about home renewable energy.

The last Suffolk Coastal-organised event, held at Woodbridge in July, proved so popular that over 30 people had to be turned away from the meeting, but now people can go along to the Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew from 6pm on Tuesday, October 24.

"There will be a series of informative presentations from 7pm but beforehand there is a chance for the public to talk direct to installers of solar water heating, ground and air source heat pumps, and to also get some general advice on energy efficiency," said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

"I am pleased that Suffolk Coastal has once again linked up with the Energy Saving Trust Advice Centre Anglia (ESTACA) to give our local community the chance to hear from independent home energy experts.

"This free event will provide background information on climate change and then focus on solar powered water heating, with information on self-build projects, and SEAL, the Council supported scheme. There will also be details about other sources of renewable energy, such as wind and ground source heat pumps, and the chance to get some free expert advice on energy efficiency and any grants available," added Cllr Slemmings.

Anyone interested in attending this event is advised to register with ESTACA on 0800 512 012 to be sure of a seat on the night. For those who want to get ahead of the game and receive information on solar water heating now, or to arrange a quote from SEAL (the Council scheme), please call 0800 0288 938 or email seal@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk SEAL's solar prices start from £3,000, subject to survey, and grants of £400 may be available for the Low Carbon Buildings Programme.

"Whether it is because they are concerned about the environment and the impacts of climate change, or as a result of rising fuel prices or doubts about the security of future supplies, the reality is that increasing numbers of people are taking up the option of having their own home renewable energy supply," added Cllr Slemmings.

More information about energy efficiency can be found on the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/energy/ or on the ESTACA website www.est.org.uk



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Farm park will be a big draw this month



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

16 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

There is a great chance this month for people of all ages to have some artistic fun down at the farm, thanks to Suffolk Coastal and Easton Farm Park.

The ever-popular tourist attraction will be hosting, as part of the annual Big Draw month, a special event on Saturday, October 28 that is aimed at all the family.

“The Big Farm Draw will see artists Bryony Graham and Suzannah Berry offering the chance for the whole family to explore the farm while demonstrating their artistic skills,” said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“People will be encouraged to come up with artistic creations using materials more often associated with farm life than the art room - wool, feathers, straw, hay, mud and even manure!

“This promises to be another great fun day that will give people the chance to brush up their artistic skills while enjoying all the attractions that Easton Farm Park has to offer,” added Cllr Leighton.

All the family can get involved, but children must be accompanied by an adult. Activities will take place between 10am and 12 noon and from 1pm to 3pm and entry to the Big Farm Draw is free, with entry to the Farm Park also being free until 1.00pm. For further information, please contact Rachel Nightingale on 01394 444294.

“Everybody who took part really enjoyed last year’s event and we are excited to be taking it one step further this year with the use of natural farm materials”, said Fiona Kerr, Easton Farm Park manager.

Any resident wanting further information about the Big Draw can contact Suffolk Coastal’s Arts and Heritage Development Officer, Rachel Nightingale on 01394 444294, or can email rachel.nightingale@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

This is the second year that the Council and Easton Farm Park have joined forces to host a Big Draw event, and their partnership will also see the launch of a new music venue at the Park next month.

The Big Draw is an annual month-long event in October, a UK-wide celebration of drawing in museums, galleries, science and environmental centres, in heritage sites and in other cultural and community venues. It creates opportunities for drawing that are fun and celebratory, public and participatory.

[2006 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Charity Christmas cards are now in stock



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

20 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

The Christmas cards that Suffolk Coastal's Tourist Information Centres (TICs) sell have proved so popular in previous years that they have now extended their range to over 51 designs for 25 different charities.

The three TICs at Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Aldeburgh are getting into the Christmas spirit by offering cards from the 'Cards for Good Causes' range which include charities such as the British Heart Foundation, Cancer Research, RNIB and Shelter. All the charities included receive at least 81p in the £1.

"Many people now prefer to send charity cards to their friends and colleagues. With 51 different designs to choose from, customers should be able to find something to suit their taste as well as being able to support their favourite national charity," said Councillor John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy & Tourism.

As well as the Christmas card range, Aldeburgh TIC is also selling Advent calendars and candles, wrapping paper, gift tags and much more from the 'Cards for Good Causes' range.

"The TICs can also offer other services to help at this busy time. For that special present or a personal treat, they can book London theatre and accommodation packages for most of the West End shows.

"For those going away for the festive period the TICs offer a National Express ticket booking service and at Woodbridge and Felixstowe rail tickets can be purchased. If Christmas abroad is on the cards then they can book airport parking including overnight stay if required and airport lounges," continued Councillor Perry.

The TICs are open Monday to Saturday during the winter season (October to March) 9am-5.30pm and 9am – 5pm on Saturday.

"Our TIC staff are play an important role in generating income for our district from the tourist industry by promoting the local attractions, helping people to book holiday accommodation in the area and providing information on events in the area. They also promote local businesses involved in the tourist industry and help to make people aware of beach safety by providing free literature from the Coastguard and Seasafe Campaign.

"I would like to congratulate our Woodbridge centre who when 'mystery shopped' scored higher than ever marks and were congratulated on offering such a superb service to the visitors and residents of Woodbridge," added Councillor Perry.

Tourism contributes in excess of £170m per annum to the district's economy and figures show that tourists are finding that a visit to one of Suffolk Coastal's TICs can help them get the most from their stay in the district and that they are also a very useful resource for residents. Last year saw the Centres deal with over 100,000 visitors, both local and tourists, and they answered 200,000 telephone and written enquiries.





2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Proposals to help reduce the effects of global warming



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

23 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is set to publicly commit itself to helping to reduce emissions of greenhouse gases by signing a national declaration on climate change.

At its meeting earlier this month, the Council's Green Issues Task Group discussed the merits of the Nottingham Declaration that councils are being encouraged to sign and support.

"Climate change is widely recognised as the greatest environmental challenge facing the world, with rising global temperatures changing weather patterns, sea levels and increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather," said Councillor Joan Sennington, Chairman of the Green Issues Task Group.

"Our district will be facing one of the most significant threats –sea levels are predicted to rise by between 26cm to 86cm above current levels by 2080, causing coastal erosion and flooding, and would inevitably have considerable economic and social impact on our local communities.

"Signing the declaration would be a public commitment on the part of the Council to improve its own performance in reducing energy consumption and carbon dioxide emissions and to influence others within the community to achieve similar improvements," continued Councillor Sennington.

The task group was recently set up to take a fresh look at how Suffolk Coastal is tackling environmental issues and help set some new additional green targets for the organisation.

The Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change is a voluntary pledge to address the issues of climate change. It is a high-level, broad statement of commitment that over 140 Councils, including Suffolk County Council, have signed, demonstrating their support for action to reduce carbon dioxide emissions from their own activities and those within the community that contribute to climate change.

"We would be required to develop an action plan with targets for improving our performance and these would need to be monitored and the results published. If approved, a number of the key targets could be incorporated within the priorities already set out in our corporate or service level scorecards," added Cllr Sennington.

It will now be decided at the Full Council meeting on Thursday, October 26 whether Suffolk Coastal should formally sign the Nottingham Declaration.

"The Council is already working with the Energy Saving Trust to establish a baseline for its carbon dioxide emissions and once this carbon footprint has been established we will be able to set targets to improve our performance," added Councillor Sennington.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Work gets underway to protect Felixstowe's sea wall



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

23 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

A further 1,500 tonnes of rock is being brought to Felixstowe by Suffolk Coastal to help ensure that the resort's southern sea defences will be effective during the coming winter months.

The rock will be delivered by road from today (Monday 23rd October 2006) with work beginning on the beach on Wednesday to build another two 50 metre stretches of protective rock barriers in front of the sea wall.

"Basically, from Wednesday, our contractors will be extending the 350 metres length of emergency work carried out during the summer by a further 50 metres on either side" said Cllr Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Coast Protection and Deputy Leader of the Council.

"This is a precautionary measure which we expect will prevent a repeat of the situation at the end of May when part of the sea wall collapsed and the promenade cracked in several places.

"We have been unsuccessful in gaining the necessary Government funding to carry out the planned groyne replacement programme that would provide this area of Felixstowe with the long-term defences that our community really needs and deserves. Until that funding is finally approved, we will continue to do our best to provide effective but temporary protection but there will continue to be a significant risk of storm damage to the defences which remain vulnerable," added Cllr Smith.

The same company who did the summertime work, Ipswich-based contractors Brooks and Wood, will be putting the latest batch of rocks in place. There will also be some additional rocks left on the beach as a reserve in case there is a need later in the winter to carry out some re-building or extension of the defences after severe weather.

"This latest project should take under two weeks to complete, work will take place only when the tides are out, and there will be only minor inconvenience to the many people who like to walk along the prom.

"We will this time be transporting the rock along the beach, so there will be no need to fence off a long length of the prom, except for the occasional movement of rock from the compound in Manor Terrace on to the beach.

"We have put in place timber steps over the rock defences installed during the summer, so there is still access down to the beach. The rocks are there for a purpose and are not a playground so I would ask people to please not attempt to climb over them," added Cllr Smith.

The Council is still hopeful that the Government will approve its bid for its £6 million groyne replacement scheme and that this project will proceed next year. This latest temporary work will cost £130,000 and will bring the total cost of the work carried out by the Council since May to £500,000, a cost which it expects to recoup from the Government in the near future.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Leader warns pressure group to get its facts right



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

24 Oct 2006

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Leader has expressed his public disappointment with recent statements by the Director of the Suffolk Preservation Society unfairly criticising the way the Council deals with planning matters and public consultation.

A letter sent to the Council by the SPS on October 13 was followed by a press release last week which made a number of unfounded and unjustified attacks on the actions of Suffolk Coastal's councillors and planning officers.

"I recently met with the director of the SPS, Richard Ward, to try and develop a better working relationship. To then see such ill-informed comments from Mr Ward about this Council has left me disappointed and astonished," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"For an organisation which seeks to perform a legitimate role in protecting and enhancing the towns and villages of Suffolk, I am amazed that they have allowed themselves to be aligned with such a disgraceful and unprofessional statement," added Cllr Herring.

Suffolk Coastal is faced with an urgent need to identify suitable sites in the district for a further 10,200 homes by 2021. Unlike counties such as Essex and Hertfordshire, who are facing enormous pressure from the Government to cater for ever greater growth, in Suffolk Coastal the level of new housing that the Council has agreed, in the East of England Plan, of 500 homes a year until 2021 is similar to that which has been built over the last 20 or so years.

"These homes will meet the needs of the whole district, including the unmet demand for more affordable homes, the reduction in household size and the growth of the Port of Felixstowe.

"It is vital to preserve this district's well-being because without them our social and economic lifeblood will leave. To suggest that agreement to develop these particular sites could occur without a full and open public consultation is a grave slur on this Council and I would ask Mr Ward to withdraw it immediately," added Cllr Herring.

The SPS has allied itself with the aims of STAG, the group seeking to prevent development occurring in the area of Trimley St Mary and Trimley St Martin.

Mr Ward is quoted as suggesting that developments could occur in the Trimleys 'without any consideration being given to the impact on the local services and infrastructure' and he expresses his major concern that 'contrary to Government advice' the Council is not giving 'a real chance for the local communities to get involved in shaping the proposals'.

Mr Ward also refers back to previous planning decisions, which were made against the advice of the SPS, and claims the Council has an 'unenviable track record of not really taking the views of local people into account over planning matters at all levels and stages'.

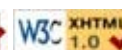
"There will always be the occasional planning decision out of the 2,500 applications determined annually at Suffolk Coastal where there is some disagreement. Planning, however, has been a real success and that is why Suffolk Coastal is such a very attractive place to live and work. Mr Ward and the SPS must know that this Council is drawing up its first Local Development

Framework, which will ultimately set out how this district will develop over the coming 15 years.

“He must also know that it is compulsory under the LDF rules that there will be a full opportunity for the public to make their comments. This Council is looking forward to involving everyone in that process, including the SPS. I expect us to do it in a way that will be as wide-reaching as possible because we are committed to encouraging widespread and informed public consultation.

“On all planning matters, this Council has to comply with national, regional and local planning rules, and in none of the instances that Mr Ward has chosen to highlight has there been any breach of those strict rules. To suggest that there has been is a disgraceful slur on the actions of councillors and officers at this Council,” added Cllr Herring.

In a letter to the SPS, Cllr Herring has also said that the recent actions of its Director will have unnecessarily alarmed and distressed the local community in the Trimleys.





How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Local store will offer an even better service



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

01 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Alderton Peninsula Pantry and Post Office Store is the first rural service in the Suffolk Coastal area to receive a grant from the re-launched Suffolk Rural Services Scheme.

The owner of the Alderton store has been awarded a grant of up to £3,600 towards the cost of improving his facilities by installing a blast chiller for ready meals, re-shelving the retail area and improving the lighting.

"This initiative offers help to people who run an essential village service such as an independent shop, pub or garage who want to improve or increase the service they offer to their local communities," said Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

The scheme was re-launched this year in a revised and improved way to provide more assistance to those businesses providing a much-needed service to rural communities. It also has a community section that will fund essential rural community services such as childcare provision or maintenance of village halls.

This county-wide scheme has been made possible thanks to grants from the East of England Development Agency, as well as Suffolk Coastal LSP, district and borough councils with rural areas such as Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Development Agency.

"I hope more of our independent rural businesses will take advantage of the business and funding advice on offer and grants of up to £5,000 towards meeting half the project costs of any proposed expansion or improvement to their service.

"One of the LSP key issues is access to services as there has clearly been a general decline in rural areas both nationally and locally. This decline is not inevitable and businesses, with assistance to make improvements and the support of their community, can reverse this trend," continued Councillor Herring.

Last year four of Suffolk Coastal's local businesses in Bredfield, Hollesley, Otley and Peasenhall received help through this particular initiative.

Anyone wanting to find out if they are eligible for help can contact Stephen Watt or Dawn Smith at Suffolk County Council on 01473 264832 or 01473 264817 or email

stephen.watt@suffolkcc.gov.uk or visit

www.suffolk.gov.uk/BusinessAndConsumer/RegenerationAndCommunityDevelopment/RuralandCommunity/ for more information.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Help on hand for rural businesses



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

02 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Thanks to the Haven Gateway Partnership and Suffolk Coastal, specialist help and advice is on hand from a rural affairs advisor whose goal is to safeguard existing jobs and encourage new jobs and help attract inward investors to the rural areas in the south of the district.

Since April, Ed Bennett, the rural affairs advisor, has been giving support to a number of local businesses, farmers and landowners, and has helped set up a survey to identify redundant rural buildings.

“Robinson & Hall, land agents and property surveyors based in Ipswich, have written to landowners and farmers in the south of our district in an attempt to draw up a definitive list of redundant rural buildings,” said Councillor John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Tourism.

“The aim is to see what buildings could possibly be converted to commercial use as light industrial units which would help meet the increasing need for this type of business outlet around the Felixstowe and Haven Gateway area.

“Even if they are unsuitable as workshops then there is a good chance they could instead be converted into holiday accommodation. This will be an important step forward in encouraging economic expansion, rural regeneration and diversification,” added Councillor Perry.

The survey aims to offer an accurate picture of what could become available for commercial use, but the specific details of where and what they are will remain confidential within the Haven Gateway organisation.

So far the survey has identified over 700,000 square feet of redundant buildings, and any farmer or landowner who has not yet received a survey should contact Robinson & Hall on 01473 831531.

“Part of Ed Bennett’s role is to help farmers and landowners bring about the change of use of redundant agricultural buildings to help either create new jobs or safeguard existing ones.

“As businesses develop, it is inevitable that they need new premises and making use of farm buildings is an extremely good way of making the most of this district’s existing options, rather than having to identify and build new sites.

“The Haven Gateway Partnership, of which this Council is an active member, is working to attract new investment and jobs into the southern part of our district. Ed Bennett is a key part of that strategy and I would recommend rural businesses in that area to contact him and see what help he can provide,” added Councillor Perry.

Anyone wanting to contact the rural affairs advisor, Ed Bennett can email ed.bennett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444252.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Remember, remember to recycle this November



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

02 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The November 5 bonfire is often used to burn garden rubbish, but Suffolk Coastal is reminding its residents that there are far greener alternative ways to dispose of this waste.

Rather than sending the valuable nutrients in this green waste up in smoke, it could be put into the Council's brown garden waste bins for collection or recycled either in home composters or on compost heaps.

"This is the time of year when gardeners do a lot of cutting back in their gardens, producing hedge and tree cuttings as well as raking up the garden leaves and it is very tempting to dispose of these on this festive bonfire," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment.

"However, there are far better ways to dispose of this type of waste that will help the environment. The Council collects garden waste fortnightly through its brown bin scheme, or it can be put into home composters or on compost heaps. There are also three Household Waste Recycling Centres at Felixstowe, Foxhall or Leiston where garden waste is collected and turned into soil improver.

"I would also remind residents that as they can now put food waste and cardboard into their brown wheelie bin, this is a good way of disposing of leftover food from Guy Fawkes' parties or those unwanted pumpkins from Halloween.

"This new service was one of the first of its kind in the whole country. Since its introduction in June of this year over 5,200 tons of compostable waste has been sent to the Parham Recycling Centre to be made into soil improver which is used on local agricultural land," continued Councillor Nunn.

Residents can use the brown bin for grass cuttings, weeds, dead flowers, leaves and light shrub cuttings, fruit and vegetables, meat and fish, eggs and dairy products, bread, rice and pasta, tea bags and coffee grounds. The food waste can be cooked or raw, although it is suggested that it is wrapped in newspaper first. Cardboard boxes, paper or cardboard-based food packaging, paper towels, and shredded paper can also be recycled in this bin.

"Currently we are well above the national average for recycling, with 39 per cent of our waste being recycled or composted, but the cost of dealing with this will rise to £9 million a year if we do not increase our recycling rate. We all need to make a bigger effort to get into the recycling habit and use the fortnightly collection services that we offer, or one of the hundreds of mini-recycling centres across the district," added Cllr Nunn.

Any Suffolk Coastal resident who would like more information about recycling can call the recycling team on 01394 444000, or visit the Council's website on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Counting the cost of ignoring a Planning Condition



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

03 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The proprietor of a Framlingham restaurant is today counting the cost of ignoring a planning condition imposed by Suffolk Coastal that prevented him from selling food to be consumed off his premises.

Mr Sergio Cavallaro was convicted at Lowestoft Magistrates Court this week of two offences of ignoring a Breach of Condition Notice which the Council had served in respect of the Golden Phoenix, Church Street, Framlingham (now known as Mr Chan) and was fined £2,000 and ordered to pay £2,544.50 towards the Council's legal costs.

"When the Council granted planning permission in 1997 to use the ground floor of the premises as a restaurant it imposed a condition preventing the sale of take-away food," said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Well-Being.

"After receiving complaints in May 2004 from neighbours that take-away food was frequently being sold from his restaurant, we investigated and served a Breach of Condition Notice on Mr Cavallaro requiring that such unauthorised sales should stop.

"After two occasions of breaching this Notice in June and July 2004 the Council started their prosecution in August 2004, but it was delayed for various reasons including the ill-health of Mr Cavallaro," continued Councillor Leighton.

Golden Phoenix (UK) Ltd, a company of which Mr Cavallaro was a director, did attempt to have the planning condition removed last year, but failed when a Government planning inspector found that this condition was necessary to protect residential amenity and the character of the conservation area. It was also felt that removal of the condition to allow take-away food sales would result in more litter plus disturbance from noise and other late night activity.

Mr Cavallaro had disputed that he was 'the person in control' as defined by planning legislation in 2004, but after hearing that he held a lease of the premises, had been present when one of the offences had been committed and is still the 'designated premises supervisor' for alcohol licensing purposes, the Court was satisfied that he had been correctly served with the Breach of Condition Notice.

"If a condition or conditions are attached to a planning permission by our planning officers, there will be a good reason for doing so, and we will take seriously any blatant breach of these and, if appropriate, will pursue a prosecution.

"In this case, the District Judge said that the offences appeared to be deliberate breaches of the planning condition and fined Mr Cavallaro the maximum permitted. I hope that this will serve as a warning to others that they should adhere to conditions set by this Council for the good of the community.

"This successful prosecution will help protect the quality of life around Framlingham and I would like to thank the officers involved for their hard work in bringing this to a successful conclusion," added Councillor Leighton.



[2006 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Scheme will put Felixstowe crime on camera



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

03 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The Felixstowe Community CCTV Initiative has been offered Government funding for a mobile closed circuit television (CCTV) system for the resort. The partnership behind the bid includes Felixstowe Town Council, Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal and Felixstowe Police.

The £36,500 grant would enable four mobile CCTV cameras that could be used by the police in the town's hotspot areas to help prevent crime and identify those who are causing criminal damage and other offences.

The Felixstowe partnership believes that this is better to target those areas where problems are known to occur, or are likely to occur, than fixed continuous cameras where all citizens may be tracked going about their legitimate business.

"This could be a real success for this district. We have always struggled to obtain national funding as the Government allocates its grants to those places with serious problems, and the reality is that Suffolk Coastal is one of safest places in the country," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"We succeeded because we highlighted the fact that a large proportion of our offences happen in parts of three particular wards in Felixstowe. In the 12 months up to March 2006 there were 477 incidents of criminal damage in these wards, over a quarter of all these type of offences in our district.

"The CCTV cameras will back up an initiative funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) which is again targeting these areas. The goal is to reduce the

amount of crime and anti-social behaviour in Felixstowe and make it a safer place for those who live there," added Cllr Green.

The planned CCTV system uses the very latest technology and delivers live images to a personal or laptop computer. Each of the four units can be easily installed and moved to provide surveillance wherever the police think they can be of most use.

Felixstowe Town Council is leading the Partnership and talks are now underway with the Police to see when the systems can be introduced.

"It should be stressed that the offences that we are tackling are largely criminal damage to property or cars. However, these are not victimless crimes and it is right that we can do all we can to either prevent this type of mindless vandalism occurring, or to catch those doing it.

"The CCTV cameras should be a real boost for the local police, and the LSP-backed campaign should also make an impact in successfully tackling this problem," added Cllr Green.

The wards of Felixstowe West, North and South have also been marked out for local publicity campaigns, increased policy activity, and additional diversionary activities for young people.



[2006 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Stepping out to fitness



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

08 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Whether it's to get fit, help recover from an illness or just for the enjoyment of walking with other people, the Stepping Out guided walks in the Woodbridge area offer the lot.

The Woodbridge and Sandlings Forest Health Walking Group is inviting anyone who is interested in improving their health through regular walking to join them in their latest programme of walks which run from now until the end of March 2007.

"Walking improves both mental and physical well-being and these walks have been designed for people who are recovering from an illness, have arthritis or joint pain, want to get fit or just as a means of making new friends," said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"The current programme provides a variety of walks that will take people along the riverside at Melton, through Rendlesham Forest, across fields at Bredfield, across the reed beds from Snape to Iken or around Woodbridge town and park.

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

"The circular walks are graded, typically last about an hour, cover a distance of approximately two miles and finish at a café or public house for those who would like to extend the social aspect of the exercise. Some are suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs," continued Councillor Green.

Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Primary Care Trust and members from the voluntary and community sector have developed these health walks across the district ranging from ones on easy flat good surfaces to more challenging ones which may include steeper slopes and rough ground.

The Woodbridge and Sandlings Forest group was set up in 2003 as part of the 'Stepping Out in Suffolk' initiative.

There are other 'Stepping Out' walks led by volunteer walk leaders in the areas around Felixstowe and Leiston/Aldeburgh, and also outside the district in parts of mid-Suffolk and Waveney.

In addition to the organised walks there are three routes in the district at Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Aldeburgh which have been marked up as health walks that people can do on their own. These are recognisable by the 'Stepping Out' logo and show the distance walked in half-mile intervals. More marked health walks are planned for those who want achievable and safe walks for their ability.

For more information on the 'Stepping Out' walks, health walks in general or becoming a volunteer walk leader contact Sharon Jarrett, Suffolk Coastal's Health Improvement Manager, on 01394 444697. The programme of health walks in the district can be viewed on Suffolk

Coastal's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 10:40:02



[2006 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

A game way to help Council balance its budget



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

10 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The latest phase of Suffolk Coastal's plans to get views from across the district on how it can plan its budget and deliver its services has seen a special budget game launched on its website.

Visitors to www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk can take part in an online opportunity to make their spending decisions on nearly 40 different local services, and see the impact of those decisions on the services and the Council Tax bill.

"This is a fun way to involve people in what is a very serious subject and I do hope that our residents will take a few minutes to play this budget game, as the Council is keen to listen to their views as we draw up a budget for 2007/08 and plan our services and spending for the next three years year," said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Fiscal and Democratic Services.

"This is another way that local people can give their views on how this Council can tackle the serious problem of bridging the £850,000 gap between our current planned level of spending, drawn up listening to what people said last year, and our expected income next year.

"We are doing all this because we want as wide a range of views as possible recognising that our residents have a wide variety of needs and use our services to different degrees. The facts are that we have made £6 million of efficiencies and additional income over the last five years, which on a budget of nearly £14 million is a real achievement, but we do now need more help from your ideas to bridge our financial gap and get our priorities right," added Cllr Whiting.

The autumn edition of CoastLine, the Council's magazine sent to every home in the district, included a survey that people could fill in which is also available online on our website. An online webchat question and answer session is also being planned for early next month.

The Council has also held a series of consultation meetings with business and community representatives, and the recent Suffolk Speaks survey was also used to seek views from residents on future service delivery.

"Despite our successes in achieving £6 million of efficiencies and additional income, external factors and expected Government funding decisions means that once again this Council has to rigorously examine all aspects of its spending and the ways we deliver services to the district," added Cllr Whiting.

There is a special section of the Council's website set aside to give anyone with access to the internet the opportunity to find out more about the Council's budget. Any resident who has already recycled their autumn edition copy of CoastLine can either find it on the website at <http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/news/coastline/> or can contact the Council on 01394 444345 for another copy.

Anyone wanting to send the Council their views on what efficiencies and savings can be made to existing services can also email budget2007@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or write to Freepost RYLA-BTTE-CKTR, Suffolk Coastal District Council (Budget 2007), Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU.





2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Help us fund Woodbridge's SkatePark



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

10 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The Woodbridge SkatePark Project Partnership is asking the community to help it find the £50,000 needed to turn into reality the long-term dream of a facility for the town's youngsters.

The SkatePark has planning permission and has already gained promises of over £79,000 of funding but is still some way short of its target. So, the Partnership is writing to over 200 local businesses asking for sponsorship, as well as seeking grants from the National Lottery and the Suffolk Environmental Trust.

"It is important for Woodbridge that we deliver this project as soon as possible. After years of planning we are now at the stage of do or die. Either we raise the money soon, or we will simply have to walk away as the Town Council's financial commitment is only on offer until August next year," said County Councillor Ben Redsell, who chairs the partnership.

"We have planning permission on this site, we are a long way towards raising the money, now we need the local community to come together to help us over the finishing line," added Cty Cllr Redsell.

The Partnership is made up of Woodbridge Town Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Just 42. A quiz night at Farlingaye High School will be donating 50% of the profits to the SkatePark project, and local young people have raised several hundred pounds over the years.

The proposal has already been promised £20,000 from the Woodbridge and Melton Market Towns Initiative, £15,000 from Suffolk Coastal District Council, £10,000 from Suffolk County Council, £9,000 from Woodbridge Town Council, £6,600 from the Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership and £5,000 from the Community Council, plus many smaller grants, including £100 from the Ganzoni Trust, £100 from Woodbridge School and £250 from the Community Champions fund.



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Helping towns and parishes plan for the future



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

10 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Towns and parishes in Suffolk Coastal can now get additional help with the complicated but important task of planning for the future of their communities, thanks to funding from the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

Sunila Osborne has taken up the new post of Town and Parish Plan Co-ordinator and is being hosted by Suffolk ACRE. The LSP recognises that parish planning is extremely important in giving people a stronger voice in the delivery of their local services.

"The LSP has set Sunila the tough target of helping 60 per cent of the 100 plus town and parish councils develop their own plans for the future of their areas by 2008," said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

"She will be able to make it easier for them, offering guidance and support to all those towns and parishes that want to put in place their own parish plan which will identify the future needs and desires of their community.

"Having a parish plan makes it far easier for towns and parishes to attract funding, as well as giving a clear and accurate snapshot of an area and how its community agrees it needs to change," added Cllr Herring.

The goal is that by 2010 every town and parish in the district will have their own parish plan, which will help plan the delivery of services and development across Suffolk Coastal.

Suffolk ACRE has now written to every town and parish clerk informing them about the post and the help it can provide.

"Parish plans are an excellent initiative but they do require a good deal of work which is where this new post will prove so important. It is vital to involve as much of the local community as possible to make the final documents truly reflective of the needs and views of the people in the area covered," added Cllr Herring.

Any town or parish that would like more information about this latest LSP initiative can contact Sunila at Suffolk ACRE on 01473 242544 or can email sunila.osborne@suffolkacre.org.uk



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Helping homes be warmer and greener



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

14 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

With the increasing national and international focus on climate change, local residents should remember that for many of them there is help on hand to make their homes more energy efficient.

Suffolk Coastal has a long-standing policy of offering grants of up to £5,000 to pay for improvements to some of the district's least energy efficient homes.

"To help those in the most need, we target our grants at those who are aged over 65 or are in receipt of benefits and the grant can cover improved insulation, and new central heating systems," said Cllr Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

"These grants not only improve the quality of life of many of our residents, with warmer homes and cheaper fuel bills, but also help the environment by the use of more energy efficient heating systems.

"Anyone who would like to make their homes warmer and greener can contact our private sector housing team for more information about the grants. Even if they are not eligible for them, our team can offer expert advice on how to make their homes more energy efficient," added Cllr Slemmings.

There are schemes aimed at everyone on offer, with an insulation scheme that offers a £50 rebate off the home's Council Tax bill. The Council also supports a solar water heating scheme which offers very competitive rates without a high pressure sales pitch.

Details of the grants scheme are available on the Council's website, www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/grants/minorworks/ or can be obtained from the private sector housing team on 01394 444506. For details of the £50 Council Tax rebate for insulation and the solar water heating scheme call 0800 028 8938.



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

New help for voluntary sector



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

14 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The district's voluntary and community organisations have gained an important boost from the appointment of Karen Lawson to give them specialist help, thanks to funding from the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP).

Karen is the Voluntary and Community Sector Development Co-ordinator, and is based with the Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations (SAVO).

"This is a key role in helping to support and develop the work of voluntary and community organisations in our district. These groups provide services enjoyed by thousands of our residents and it is a recognition of their importance that they are now being described nationally as the third sector, after the business and public sectors," said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

Among the immediate goals of the new job will be to create a database of all the voluntary and community organisations in the district, offering support and advice to the groups so they can achieve better training and funding, and promote their activities and the need for volunteers.

"We know that we have a committed, hard-working and successful voluntary sector in our district, but it is also clear that in these challenging times they need more support to help them develop.

"There has been an increasing expectation from central government downwards that the voluntary sector can take on more and more tasks and responsibilities, with all the additional rules and regulations that often comes with them.

"Funding is becoming increasingly difficult with a wide variety of funders, each with strict criteria. The demands on existing volunteers and the need for new ones is also becoming greater. The LSP and SAVO hopes that Karen will play a vital part in helping groups to grow and be better informed about developments so that they are able to continue their excellent work throughout our district," added Cllr Herring.

Anyone wanting to contact Karen Lawson can call her on 01473 275195 or email Karen.lawson@savo.co.uk

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Be aware of bogus callers claiming to be Council Tax Inspectors



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

15 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Be on your guard against people pretending to be Council Tax Inspectors to get access to your home is the warning Suffolk Coastal is giving to its residents after a number of bogus callers have been reported operating nationally and who could now be in the area.

The tricksters claim to be carrying out Council Tax re-valuations for the local council and some come with cameras and other equipment to make them look more genuine.

“One householder has reported to us that a man called at his property on Sunday saying he had come from the council. He then proceeded to ask questions about the building work that was being carried out to the property,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Community Safety.

“I would remind our residents that our Council Tax Inspectors always carry identity as do all council staff who visit the public. They do not visit at weekends so any such callers at those times should be treated with the greatest suspicion.

“You should ask anyone who calls at your door asking for access to show proof of who they are and the company they work for before letting them in. If necessary keep them out of the house while their identity is checked - genuine work officials will have no problem with this,” continued Councillor Green.

Any incidents of callers claiming to be from official organisations or companies who cannot provide identity or who start to act suspiciously when challenged should be reported to the police.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Flytipping will always cost



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

15 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Help us cut down the cost of flytipping is the call from Suffolk Coastal after a recent clean-up led to a truckload of rubbish being taken away from just one lay-by.

In an effort to reduce the illegal dumping at this particular spot, the County Council has recently cut back the trees and bushes which the flytippers were using to hide from view while illegally leaving their rubbish.

“There is always a cost associated with flytipping, whether it be indirectly to local residents through their Council Tax to have it cleared away, to the flytippers when they get caught and fined, or to the environment which is visually and sometimes actually polluted,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment.

“The County’s cutback at the lay-by revealed a real horror show - one lorry tyre, seven car tyres, three large wooden armchairs, a car door, a car bumper, a car battery, a king-sized bedstead and a metal dustbin as well as sack loads of general litter. All this rubbish had to be taken away and disposed of at a cost to the Council.

“There really is no excuse for this kind of dumping – there are many ways to safely and legally dispose of such items. If anyone sees any such activities I would ask them to report it to us so we can try and catch the people concerned,” continued Councillor Nunn.

The Council has also removed the litter bins at the lay-by because they have on several occasions been set alight.

In the past year over 60 litter bins and dog bins in the district have been damaged, burnt out or destroyed. These have often been sited near schools and children’s play areas and if they are owned by a Town or Parish Council, they have to bear the cost of replacement out of their own budgets.

“We report all incidents of damage or loss of Council property through vandalism to the police for their further investigation and prosecution.

“All reports of flytipping will be investigated and we will take enforcement action against anyone found responsible. This could involve culprits being taken to court and fined up to, and in some cases, more than £50,000 or given up to six months imprisonment,” added Councillor Nunn.

Any Suffolk Coastal resident who would like advice on disposing of their rubbish safely and legally can call 01394 444000, which is also the number for reporting any incidents of flytipping or damage to litter or dog bins, or visit the Council’s website on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Get online for budget webchat with Council Leader



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

22 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Leader and Chief Executive will be online to answer questions about the Council's spending plans for next year in the first ever chatroom held on its website on Wednesday, December 6 between 6pm and 9pm.

The Council has been seeking views on how it can plan its budget and deliver its services, and Councillor Ray Herring and Stephen Baker will be online to field questions as the latest stage of this year's consultation exercise.

"This is a great chance for our residents to quiz us about the Council's spending and our services. All anyone has to do is visit the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk and follow the link off the home page, where there are full details on how to take part," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"It is important that we get a wide range of views on how we draw up our budget for next year. We have already listened to our residents and have agreed to keep our Council Tax increase to below three per cent, but that leaves a £850,000 budget gap that must be closed.

"This is the first webchat we have offered on our website and I hope it will attract people who want more information about what we do, or want an instant reaction to their comments on how we could change the way we work. This forum could turn out to be an important new way for residents across our district to have their say," added Cllr Herring.

Visitors to the website can also play the budget game and make their spending decisions on nearly 40 different local services, and see the impact on the services and the Council Tax bill. These responses, along with all the others received by the Council, will be reported back to councillors as they make their budget 2007 decisions.

The Council also published a questionnaire along with a detailed explanation of the challenges facing it in its autumn edition of CoastLine and has also held meetings with representatives of local businesses, town and parish councils, and community organisations. The questionnaire is still available online on the Council's website.

"We are doing all this because we want as wide a range of views as possible. We have made £6 million of efficiencies and additional income over the last five years, which on a budget of nearly £14 million is a real achievement, but we do now need more help to bridge our financial gap which is why we want to listen to your ideas," added Cllr Herring.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Ufford will have a village store again this Christmas



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

22 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

A grant of up to £5,000 from the Suffolk Rural Services Scheme will help towards the cost of converting a garage/stable block into a new village store and post office for people living in Ufford.

The owner of a property in Loudham Lane came forward with a proposal to convert part of his premises into the local store when the old store closed in September.

"When the old store and post office closed John Adcroft, a local resident, decided to investigate the possibility of converting his existing garage/stable block to provide this much-needed service," said Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

"Mr Adcroft was successful in obtaining planning permission for the conversion and applied for a grant from the Suffolk Rural Services Scheme towards the cost of the building works, which will incorporate disabled access, and buying the necessary refrigeration equipment. Mr Adcroft hopes to open the shop early December with the post office service being available from mid-January," continued Councillor Herring.

The Suffolk Rural Services Scheme offers business and funding advice and grants of up to £5,000 towards meeting half the project costs of any proposed expansion or improvement of an independent rural business.

It also has a community section that will fund essential rural community services such as childcare provision or maintenance of village halls.

"This is the second successful local application since the scheme was re-launched this year. Alderton Peninsula Pantry and Post Office Store recently received a grant of £3,600 towards the cost of improving his facilities.

"With the decline of access to services in rural areas both nationally and locally the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) has made this one of its key issues. This decline is not inevitable and businesses, with assistance to make improvements and with the support of their community, can reverse this trend," added Councillor Herring.

This county-wide scheme has been made possible thanks to grants from the East of England Development Agency, as well as Suffolk Coastal LSP, district and borough councils with rural areas such as Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and the Suffolk Development Agency.

Anyone wanting to find out if they are eligible for help can contact Stephen Watt or Dawn Smith at Suffolk County Council on 01473 264832 or 01473 264817 or email

stephen.watt@suffolkcc.gov.uk or visit

www.suffolk.gov.uk/BusinessAndConsumer/RegenerationAndCommunityDevelopment/RuralandCommunity/ for more information.

Ufford will have a village store again this Christmas

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Get walking to get fit



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

23 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The latest Stepping Out guided walks in the north of the district offer exercise for people who want to get fit, who are recovering from an illness or who just enjoy walking with other people.

The Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Health Walking Group is inviting anyone who is interested in improving their health through regular walking to join them in their programme of walks, which run from now until the end of August 2007.

“We know walking improves both mental and physical well-being and these walks have been designed for people who are recovering from an illness, have arthritis or joint pain, want to get fit or just as a means of making new friends,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

“The current programme provides a variety of walks that will take people along the Rivers Alde and Blyth, through Dunwich woods, over The Sandlings, across country roads, farm tracks and fields or around Orford.

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

“These walks are graded, typically last about two hours, cover a distance of approximately three miles and finish near to a café or public house for those who would like to extend the social aspect of the exercise. Some are suitable for wheelchairs or pushchairs,” continued Councillor Green.

Suffolk Coastal District Council, Suffolk Primary Care Trust and members from the voluntary and community sector have developed these health walks across the district, ranging from ones on easy, flat good surfaces to more challenging ones which may include steeper slopes and rough ground.

The Aldeburgh, Leiston and Saxmundham Health Walking Group was set up in 2005 as part of the ‘Stepping Out in Suffolk’ initiative.

There are other ‘Stepping Out’ walks led by volunteer walk leaders in the areas around Felixstowe and Woodbridge, and also outside the district in parts of mid-Suffolk and Waveney.

In addition to the organised walks there are three routes in the district at Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Aldeburgh which have been marked up as health walks that people can do on their own. These are recognisable by the ‘Stepping Out’ logo and show the distance walked in half-mile intervals. More marked health walks are planned for those who want achievable and safe walks for their ability.

For more information on the ‘Stepping Out’ walks, health walks in general, or becoming a volunteer walk leader contact Sharon Jarrett, Suffolk Coastal’s Health Improvement Manager, on 01394 444697. The programme of health walks in the district can be viewed on Suffolk Coastal’s website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout





2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Beware of high winds warning to local residents



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

24 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is echoing the announcements issued by the Meteorological Office and is warning its local residents to be particularly aware of the high winds expected across the district over the weekend.

High winds have been forecast by the Meteorological Office for the weekend, particularly tonight (Friday) and into Saturday morning, and there is a significant risk that residents in parts of the Suffolk Coastal district could be harmed unless due care is taken.

The emergency planning team at Suffolk Coastal is recommending that, under such conditions, people should take extra care. Many trees across the district are still in leaf at the moment, which makes them particularly susceptible to the effects of strong wind.

Residents should beware of falling trees or branches, particularly if they are driving, and it would be best to stay away from woods or forested areas while the high winds persist.

The Met Office is forecasting further very windy weather over the next few days, with a vigorous depression moving from the south-west across the United Kingdom on Saturday and predictions of gusts of 65-75 miles per hour across most of England and Wales, with southern and eastern England most at risk.

According to the Met Office, there is a risk of significant disruption to transport and power supplies. For more information about the weather contact the Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100 or visit their website on www.metoffice.gov.uk

The Environment Agency is not anticipating that this south-westerly weather will give rise to a significant threat of tidal flooding but there may be the potential for damage to coastal defences.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?


[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Flights of Fancy helps youngsters grow musical wings


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

24 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Groups of young children are getting their musical education off on the right note thanks to a scheme called Flights of Fancy, which is seeing professional musicians visiting local playgroups and schools.

The scheme, developed by Suffolk Coastal District Council in partnership with the Eastern Orchestral Board, has been holding weekly nursery sessions for young children at Eyke and Rendlesham Pre-school Playgroup, Rendlesham Primary School and Sutton Heath Childcare Centre.

"Flights of Fancy is an innovative scheme that offers fun and creative musical activities to help spark and develop the potential of the youngsters with the help of a small team of professional musicians who are experienced in working with young children," said Cllr Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"The children will also be visited throughout the project by musicians from the internationally renowned City of London Sinfonia. It is rare for this type of venture to reach a rural area but this project is using some of the country's finest orchestral players and East Anglia's most talented workshop leaders to deliver music activity of the highest standard in Suffolk.

"Music is recognised as a valuable tool for young children. Research suggests that it helps them to learn through play and supports their developing language and communication skills as well as encouraging their social skills. It is a great chance for families to get together and parents are invited to take part in some of the Flights of Fancy sessions alongside their children," added Cllr Leighton.

Flights of Fancy has been made possible thanks to the support of a number of organisations including the Eastern Orchestral Board, Youth Music, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Coastal and Awards for All.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Partnership will make work a safer place



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

24 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The latest Suffolk-wide partnership to be launched will help make the county an even safer place for workers and residents.

Suffolk district and borough councils have linked up with the Health and Safety Executive to sign up to a flexible warrant scheme that will allow inspectors to work across geographical and enforcement boundaries to deliver a better health and safety service in Suffolk.

"This new agreement will mean that inspectors from the different partner agencies will be able to work more flexibly across previous strict boundaries and intervene wherever they see a serious health and safety risk in the county," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"The Suffolk councils and the HSE are piloting the scheme over the coming year and the results of the pilot will help to inform the roll-out of flexible warrants nationally in the future.

"It will allow all the councils and the HSE to use their expertise to make a joined-up impact on ensuring that health and safety standards are adhered to, which can only be good news for everyone," added Cllr Green.

The HSE is responsible for regulating health and safety at manufacturing premises such as factories and construction sites, while councils regulate distribution businesses, offices and retail premises including hotels and leisure facilities. At the same time the HSE also deals with construction work and transport matters at many of the premises dealt with by councils. [Cont./...](#)

"Our new flexible warrant agreement will mean that inspectors, whether they are from a council or the HSE, can intervene when and where they see serious health and safety risks at any work premises.

"The inspectors already have the same powers but until now they have been powerless to do anything if it is somewhere that their organisation does not have responsibility for - we have now torn down those barriers, so freeing up our inspectors to take immediate action," added Cllr Green.

As businesses have modernised and evolved, it has become increasingly complicated to determine whether an accident is a HSE or a council case. These new arrangements mean that if an HSE inspector finds out that the premises are for the council's enforcement responsibility they can continue the investigation and deal with matters of imminent concern – rather than withdraw and get a council inspector to visit the site at a later date.

Local council environmental health teams provide a local service. Their inspectors are out in the community on a daily basis visiting businesses to give advice, carry out inspections and investigate accidents. They will now be able to intervene to prevent accidents where bad practice is spotted, even if HSE are responsible for enforcement.

"We will be using local council and HSE staff to target poor practice and incidents in the best

way, combining the local knowledge and presence of council staff with the HSE's national influence to make sure we reduce accidents and ill health by working together," added Cllr Green.





2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

The election X Factor swings into Farlingaye School



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

24 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Election fever has come early to Woodbridge's Farlingaye School with students in year nine getting ready to choose between four candidates in a special exercise put on with the help of Suffolk Coastal.

A series of workshops at the school will go through the whole election process, including who can vote, the importance of being on the electoral register, how to vote and what happens when votes are counted.

"Next May sees every district, town and parish council seat in our district up for election, and this is an excellent way of explaining the system to young people and getting the message across of the importance of using their vote when they are eligible," said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member with responsibility for young people.

"These fun sessions will hopefully help these young people understand that politics affects us all and that individuals can influence the decisions that impact on their daily lives through the ballot box. We are trialling these at Farlingaye and hope to roll them out to other secondary schools in the district in the future," continued Councillor Savage.

At the start of each session students take part in an introduction to the voting system before being divided into candidates, tellers, a presiding officer, a poll clerk and voters.

They move to an area set up as an election station complete with polling booths and go through the various stages of voting from registration, to marking their ballot slip and placing it in the ballot box.

The next part of the session explains the counting process and declaration of the successful candidate. Students become counting assistants, counting agents, a returning officer and spectators and when all the votes are counted the successful candidate is declared.

To bring the workshop to a close students will have the chance to take part in a question and answer session.

"I would like to thank our elections team for putting on these fun, but extremely informative workshops and I am sure the students taking part will have a much better understanding of how the system works and why it is so important to vote when you have the chance," added Councillor Savage.



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Nearly thirty and still growing



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

27 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

As the country gears up for National Tree Week, November 22 to December 3, it has been another good year for Suffolk Coastal's Parish Tree Scheme with 20 parishes coming up with new ideas or continuing their existing projects to improve and enhance their environment.

The annual Parish Tree Scheme seeks out locations where new trees and hedging can improve the environmental quality of land in parishes and villages and this year's scheme will see 200 trees and 3,300 hedge plants added to the local landscape.

"The scheme has been running for nearly 30 years and is a marvellous initiative which has helped improve the look of the district," said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member with responsibility for Conservation and Design.

"This is planting by local people for the benefit of their community and I would like to thank everyone who has come up with ideas and all the Parish Councils and local residents who have been involved in the planting," continued Councillor Smith.

Projects included in this year's scheme include a community woodland in Snape and field and community ground hedging at Blaxhall, Ubbeston, Peasenhall, Middleton, Kirton and Framlingham.

This year Suffolk Coastal, in conjunction with the East Anglian Regional Tree Wardens Forum and the East of England Apples and Pears Project has also been encouraging parishes to consider planting out community orchards with native fruit trees and the first parish to take on this initiative will be Dallinghoo.

Suffolk Coastal also runs a successful Tree Wardens scheme supported by the Tree Council. There are about 75 tree wardens in the district who advise Parish Councils and run planting and conservation projects within their parishes. They can provide invaluable support to the Parish Councils and also help Council officers where a local contact is needed to fulfil its own work. Anyone interested in becoming a Tree Warden should talk to their Parish Council.

Anyone looking for an unusual gift that will benefit the environment and last for years can take up Suffolk Coastal's offer of planting a black poplar tree, the only poplar that is native to this country.

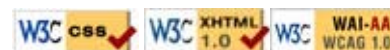
All trees have been propagated from local tree stock and grown on for planting into the wild wet meadows and river valley landscapes.

"This is an opportunity which I hope will appeal to our residents who are looking to give something different at this time of the year. This would be a really excellent present as it will help encourage the survival of this key native tree and at the same time is a lasting gift to the environment," added Councillor Smith.

The trees will be available for collection from the Crown nursery in Ufford in late January, and anyone interested in finding out more can call the Council's landscape officer on 01394 444420.

For further information on the Parish Tree Scheme phone 01394 444553 or visit Suffolk Coastal's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/parishcouncils/treescheme/

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 10:45:12





2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal set to back pathfinders partnership



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

27 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

A proposal to join a county-wide partnership that will commit Suffolk's councils to working together more closely is set to get the go-ahead from Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet.

The Local Government White Paper published on October 26 includes an invitation for councils to join together as pathfinders for new two tier models of providing services.

"This Council welcomes the recognition by the Government that unitary councils are not always the best solution for all parts of the country, and I think that there has been real progress over the last 18 months to improve the way council services are provided in our county," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"This 'pathfinder' approach could allow us to build on the partnership work already underway and deliver even better, more efficient and cost effective services to our residents.

"However, there are very few details as yet from the Government on how it expects pathfinders partnerships to actually work, or what if any incentives it will offer to support them. But, on the basis that this Council is already committed to increased partnership working, I am recommending that in principle we should proceed with drawing up a bid to the Government," added Councillor Herring.

The Leaders of Suffolk's district, borough and county councils are already signed up to a local concordat which includes the commitment to drive down costs through partnership working among the councils. They have also agreed that services and budgets should be devolved down to those best placed to deliver them, including town and parish councils.

Commenting on the plans, County Councillor Jeremy Pembroke, Leader of Suffolk County Council said, "It is the job of all councils to find the best way to deliver good quality services while keeping very tight control of costs. Pathfinder status gives us a once in a lifetime opportunity to shape local government to suit the needs of Suffolk. To do nothing would run the severe risk of having the shape of local government decided for us. It will help us to accelerate our partnership working and increase our ability to speak up for Suffolk on important national and regional issues that affect us all."

As well as the pathfinder option, the Government is also offering the chance for councils to bid for unitary status, whereby just one council provides all services in its area. This unitary option has previously been unsuccessfully pursued by Ipswich, however it is not one that necessarily suits rural areas and reorganisation costs falling on the Council Taxpayer can be excessive.

"The Government's timescale is very short as we have to submit any bid by January 25, and its decision as to which pathfinders it will support will be announced by the end of March.

"Because I think this county is already leading the way in delivering partnership working, I can see no real reason why we should not at this stage put ourselves forward as pathfinders. It seems to put in concrete much of what are not just aspirations but are actual planned and delivered services changes in our county," added Councillor Herring.

Any pathfinder bid is expected to consider both future governance models as well as how better service delivery can be delivered through working with partners.

The report going to Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet on December 5 suggests that any countywide bid could be formed around the established collaboration track record in Suffolk. This includes the successes in delivering effective partnerships, the Local Area Agreement, and the above-target efficiencies that have been made.



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Green up your Christmas with a real tree



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

28 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is asking its residents to think green this Christmas and buy a real tree that can either be planted out or composted after the festive season.

Although artificial trees may last for a number of years, at the end of their useful life they will end up in landfill, whereas a real tree can be replanted in the garden and used in future years, or recycled and turned into soil improver.

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

“The advantage of a real tree is that, if it is not rooted, it can be cut up after Christmas and put in the brown garden waste recycling bin or, alternatively, it can be taken to one of the three Household Waste Recycling sites at Foxhall, Felixstowe and Leiston.

“Trees with roots can be replanted in the garden either for re-use next year or just left to grow to enhance the garden scene.

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

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



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Extra car park open to help town's shoppers



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

29 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

For every Saturday in December in the run up to Christmas an extra 200 parking spaces will be available free of charge for shoppers visiting Woodbridge, thanks to the Woodbridge Town Centre Management Group (WTCMG) and Suffolk Coastal.

The car parks at the Council's Melton Hill offices will be open from 8am to 6pm on Saturdays, and also on Sunday, December 2 for the town's street fair, after the WTCMG offered to fund the Council's additional costs of the initiative.

"Woodbridge has an excellent range of shops offering a great choice of food and potential gifts for the coming Christmas festivities and the car parks, like the shops, will be busy, so we are pleased to be able to open up some extra spaces," said Cllr John Perry, Cabinet Member for economy and tourism.

"Thanks to the support of the Town Centre Management Group, it will be free to park at the Melton Hill car park, and we hope it will attract many of the staff working at the shops on Saturdays, so that more spaces will be available to shoppers at the town's more central car parks," said Marion Wells, the Woodbridge Town Centre co-ordinator.

Signs are being put up by the Group to direct people towards this special additional car parking in the busy run-up to Christmas.

"Woodbridge is to be congratulated for its efforts to promote itself as a shopping attraction and I would encourage people to try the excellent shops and specialist stores across our district that are offering quality products without the frustrating hassles that either online, or big town or city, shopping can all too often produce," added Cllr Perry.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Government's grant news leaves £850,000 budget gap



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

29 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal has been left with a £850,000 budget gap following yesterday's announcement by the Government of what grants it will be giving local councils in the coming financial year.

Although the Local Government Minister Phil Woolas described it as a good settlement, the reality is quite different according to Suffolk Coastal's Leader of the Council.

"The announcement by the Government of what central funding will be available to help support the cost of local services was exactly what we had feared but expected. There has been absolutely no change from Government's initial announcement last year," said Cllr Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"Once again the reality, despite the claims from Whitehall, is that the increases in demand for our services and in our costs are not being met by the Government. For example, the cost of the free bus pass scheme alone is expected to rise by £180,000 for this district next year, but there is no offer yet to meet these additional costs from the Government that told us to provide this extra service last year," added Cllr Herring.

The additional burden of the concessionary fares scheme, £180,000 for next year, is only just below the total Government grant increase for next year to cover the cost of all services. The increase of £199,000 for 2007/08 is below the rate of inflation.

"The reform of the local government finance system is long overdue and it is not acceptable for the burden of funding national challenges to continue to be placed on the Council Taxpayer.

"Along with other councils, we are waiting for the results of the Lyons Inquiry to provide a funding system that is fair to the Council Taxpayer, particularly those in rural districts like ours, and capable of meeting the increasing demands for our services and emerging national challenges.

"This Council will keep its Council Tax rise in April to below three percent, but this smoke and mirrors settlement from the Government will do nothing to help us close our £850,000 budget gap between our current level of services and our expected total income. The gap is largely caused by national factors outside of our direct control, such as inflation and new unfunded Government burdens," added Cllr Herring.

Next week, Wednesday December 6, there is a chance for people to raise any questions about the Council's budget with Cllr Herring and Stephen Baker, Chief Executive, during a special webchat.

Cllr Herring and Mr Baker will be online to answer questions about the Council's spending plans for next year in the first ever chatroom held on its website, www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk, on Wednesday, December 6 between 6pm and 9pm.

There is a link on the home page of the website that gives full details of how to get involved in

the webchat. Visitors to the website can also play the budget game and make their spending decisions on nearly 40 different local services, and see the impact on the services and the Council Tax bill. These responses, along with all the others received by the Council, will be reported back to councillors as they make their budget 2007 decisions.

The Council also published a questionnaire along with a detailed explanation of the challenges facing it in its autumn edition of CoastLine and has also held meetings with representatives of local businesses, town and parish councils, and community organisations. The questionnaire is still available online on the Council's website.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Grey water will turn Woodbridge toilets green



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

30 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

The go-ahead is set to be given to plans to make a new block of toilets in Woodbridge the first in the district to be environmentally friendly as well as offering a top class service to its users.

Next week's Cabinet meeting is due to discuss proposals to fund works that will see the excess water from the Deben Swimming Pool being used to flush the new public toilets being built next to the centre.

"This is set to be even better than anticipated as there will be a new high quality toilet block, which will open early in the new year, that will also address the Council's green agenda by reusing water, so it has two functions instead of just one. This indicates just how committed this Council is to protecting the environment," said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

"We have the opportunity to use the surplus water from Deben Pool to fill the cisterns in the new toilet block. This will be a far more effective way of using the 'grey' water rather than just putting it straight into the sewage system. Clean water will only be required for the taps to enable hand washing.

"If this scheme wins the go-ahead from my Cabinet colleagues, there will be a long-term saving for the Council as its water bill will be cut and also real benefits for the environment as we will be using less water. This is an excellent example of how we are trying to find ways to both be more efficient and environmentally friendly," added Cllr Green.

The Council has been working closely with Anglian Water Services to ensure that the new scheme meets all its technical requirements, and this has resulted in a small increase in the original estimate of the total cost.

It is expected that there will be annual savings of around £1,000 a year by switching to this scheme of reusing the grey water from the pool, and that there will be a reduction of around 0.135 tonnes of carbon dioxide emissions as a result also.

"Over the last six years we have brought 20 of our 32 blocks of toilets up to modern standards, with facilities such as hot and cold water, soap dispensers, hand driers, baby changing facilities, access for disabled people, and good quality lighting. This latest development indicates how the Council wishes to achieve the aims of better toilet facilities, while also serving our green agenda" said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Housing service will continue to improve



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

30 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

A report by the Audit Commission into the Council's strategic housing services has been welcomed as a useful springboard to ensure that even more improvements are made.

Although Suffolk Coastal has not had any housing of its own since its stock was transferred nearly 15 years ago, the Council still has some responsibilities including encouraging more affordable house building and helping homeless people.

"The report recognises many of our existing strengths and our plans for improvements, highlights a few weaknesses, and offers a helpful set of recommendations on how we can do even better. The foundations are already well in place and our services are improving." said Councillor Chris Slemmings, Cabinet Member for Housing.

"We have been making significant recent strides enabling more affordable homes to be built, and this has been a major priority. However, I am equally proud that we have been able to halve the number of homeless cases by proactive preventative measures and virtually ended the number of families that have had to endure stays in bed and breakfast hotels.

"As a result, in the first seven months of this financial year the Council has only taken 66 homelessness applications, compared with over 150 during the whole of 2005/6 and 308 in 2004/5," added Councillor Slemmings.

The Audit Commission agrees that 'strengths outweigh weaknesses in the Council's track record in delivering improvement' and there is praise for its work on adding to the number of new affordable homes, its significant emphasis on preventing homelessness, and the increase in the number of empty privately owned homes that have been brought back into use.

"We agree that the condition of our two hostels is not as good as is desirable. This is one of the reasons why we have been negotiating for the take-over of the hostels by a local housing association. The association will have the resources to resolve these problems. However, less than one third of the accommodation that the Council is currently using to provide temporary shelter for homeless households is in hostels. The majority is self-contained flats and houses at various locations across the district.

"As the report recognises, across virtually all aspects of our housing services, we have been delivering improvements, and we will not take our foot off the accelerator in our drive to get more affordable homes, offer better advice to prevent homelessness, end the use of B&B accommodation, and provide an even better value for money service for all. In order to achieve this we will need to work with key partners including local housing associations to deliver the improvements that this Council and the Audit Commission want to see," added Councillor Slemmings.

As well as housing enabling and homelessness prevention, the housing service at Suffolk Coastal includes a range of services aimed at privately-owned homes including grants to enable elderly or disabled people to adapt their homes so they can remain in them, energy efficiency advice, and a home improvement agency that has helped 500 elderly homeowners with routine

repairs in the last three years. Residents who want to find out more about the grants that are available should contact the Council on 01394 444506.

© Suffolk Coastal District Council. | [Legal & privacy](#) | [Site statistics](#)
Last updated: 14/01/2010 10:46:42



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Youngsters have winning designs on tackling crime



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

30 Nov 2006

Archived press release.

Three local children will next week each pick up a MP3 player as their prize for winning a competition to design a leaflet about anti-social behaviour, aimed at young people.

Organised by the Suffolk Coastal Crime and Disorder Reduction Partnership, the challenge for young people from the Suffolk Coastal area was to design a leaflet to explain what anti-social behaviour is, its consequences and how to report it.

“The standard of entries to the competition was extremely high and I would like to thank all those who took part. It is fantastic that the winning designs can be used for a leaflet to help young people in Suffolk Coastal better understand the issues around anti-social behaviour and its consequences,” said Cllr Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

Gemma and Becky Oakes, aged 13 from Dennington, were joint first prize-winners with Eloise Vest, aged 11, years from Martlesham while Ellen Wright, aged 14, from Felixstowe was awarded second prize and Terry Dean, aged 12, also from Felixstowe, was third. Ellen and Terry will receive music vouchers.

Gemma and Becky entered the competition through the Framlingham Youth Club and Framlingham Area Youth Action Partnership and Terry Dean entered through the Level 2 Youth Project in Felixstowe.

The winners and their parents will join representatives of the Suffolk Coastal Crime & Disorder Reduction Partnership for a prize-giving presentation and lunch at Seckford Hall on Monday December 4.

Inspector Ben Cook from Suffolk Constabulary will award prizes, and the winners will also spend a day with an artist to incorporate their designs into a working leaflet, which will be published in the New Year.



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Severe weather warning to local residents



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

01 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

The Meteorological Office is again warning that there could be severe gales and heavy rain across the country with a 40 per cent chance that the east of England could be affected.

Suffolk Coastal is advising its local residents to be aware of the prospects of very wet and windy weather over the weekend, in particular from Saturday night to Monday morning, to watch out for updated forecasts from the Met Office, and to take extra care around trees and wooded areas.

An early warning of severe gales was issued this morning (Friday) by the Met Office, with predicted gusts of 70-80 miles per hour winds in Wales, with the weather spreading across England during Saturday night, and possible severe gales returning during Sunday.

The emergency planning team at Suffolk Coastal is recommending that, under such conditions, people should take extra care. There are still more leaves on many of the trees across the district than is usual for this time of the year, which makes them particularly susceptible to the effects of strong wind.

Residents should beware of falling trees or branches, particularly if they are driving, and it would be best to stay away from woods or forested areas while the high winds persist.

According to the Met Office, there is a risk nationally of significant disruption to transport and power supplies. For more information about the weather contact the Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100 or visit [the Met Office website \(new window\)](#).

It is not anticipated that this weather will give rise to a significant threat of tidal flooding but there may be the potential for damage to coastal defences.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Get set for the Morson Group Sports Awards 2007



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

04 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

This year has seen some fine sporting achievements across the district and a newly launched scheme promoted by the Suffolk Coastal Community Sports Network is set to recognise them. Nominations are urgently wanted now from people and sports clubs for the Morson Group Sports Awards 2007.

Those involved in sports are spread across all parts of the district so the Network has been bringing them together to share their knowledge and expertise. The Network will hold its first awards ceremony on Sunday, February 11 2007 at the Seckford Theatre, Woodbridge School.

“The Morson Group Sports Awards is a way of recognising our local sports people and organisations for their achievements and contribution to sport during 2006. The three finalists in each category will be also be put forward to the countywide Suffolk Sports Awards which will be held next October,” said Councillor Rae Leighton, Cabinet Member for Community Well-being.

The award categories are:

- The Flyer Group Sports Personality 2007
- Kings Models Young Sports Personality 2007 (under 18 on August 31 2006)
- Kingpin Disabled Sports Person 2007
- DC Leisure Club of the Year 2007
- The School Sports Partnership Coach of the Year 2007
- Easton Farm Park Sporting School 2007
- Greenthumb East Suffolk Volunteer of the year 2007
- Mannings Amusement Park Lifetime Achievement.

Closing date for entries is Monday, January 15, 2007 and nomination forms are available by contacting Richard Baldwin on 01394 444318 or Sarah Shinnie on 01394 444652.



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

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

The pack that could deal the right card



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

05 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

A pack of illustrative cards detailing contacts for voluntary and community organisations is being offered to businesses across the district.

The cards are targeted at smaller local businesses that do not have a personnel or human resource service and who want to support their staff by giving them information on organisations that might be able to help them with a variety of issues.

“These cards, which were launched at the recent Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) forum, have been produced by the Suffolk Volunteering Federation to provide a useful source of information that businesses can pass on to their employees,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

“There are 26 cards in the pack that cover a variety of subjects from illness and bereavement to sport, transport, arts and children. There are also cards giving businesses information on how they can help the voluntary sector by supporting their staff if they wish to volunteer, or who to contact if they are considering setting up a Payroll Giving scheme,” continued Councillor Herring.

Any business wanting a pack should contact Karen Lawson, Voluntary and Community Sector Development Co-ordinator, who is based with the Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations (SAVO). Karen can be contacted on 01473 275195 or email Karen.lawson@savo.co.uk



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Christmas recycling and refuse collections in Suffolk Coastal



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

08 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

There is an important change to the refuse and recycling collection services during this year's Christmas and New Year period, with most collections running one day later than usual.

Residents are being asked to put their rubbish and recycling out one day later than normal after the Boxing Day bank holiday except for those who are due a collection on Christmas Day who are asked to put it out two days earlier, on Saturday, December 23.

Because there are no collections on the New Year Bank Holiday, Monday, January 1, residents are again asked to put their rubbish and recycling out one day later than normal for that week.

Full details of these arrangements have been included in an information card delivered to every home in the district.

"For the first time over the holiday period our teams will be working on Saturdays. The change will bring us into line with most other councils and means that no home will have a two week gap between collections as used to happen to two-fifths of our district. I hope everyone will play their part by trying to recycle as much as possible, cut down the amount of waste, and put their rubbish and recycling out for collection on the right day by 7.30am," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment natural and built.

"At this time of year, more rubbish than ever is put out for collection, but a lot can be recycled.

"Unwanted food can now go in the brown garden waste bin, together with cut up Christmas trees (without buckets or decorations). Alternatively, trees can be taken to one of the Household Waste sites in the district at Foxhall, Felixstowe Carr Road and Leiston which will be open every day until the end of January except for Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day from 8am to 4pm. Cardboard, plastics and batteries can also be recycled at these sites.

"Residents who are receiving the Twin Bin service can recycle their cans, foil, plastics, cardboard and paper in their blue-lidded bins.

"Those not yet receiving this service can recycle their Christmas cards, envelopes, newspapers, magazines, catalogues, television guides and wrapping paper, if not of the foil type, in the green recycling crate. To enable the vehicles' collection pods to cope with the extra paper at this time of the year, it would help if it was folded and flattened.

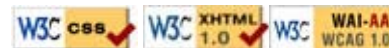
"Items such as cans, bottles and jars can be recycled at one of over 230 recycling sites across the district, but we would appreciate it if people did not leave these on the ground if the banks are full. Please report full banks and wait until they are emptied or use an alternative site. Metal jar and bottle tops, as well as foil can go in the can banks, but these need to be put into a small plastic bag first," continued Councillor Nunn.

As this time of year usually sees more rubbish than ever put out for collection, residents can help by making sure they put out all their rubbish by 7.30am as the refuse collection crews may

call earlier than normal over this busy period.

“It’s a busy time too for many businesses, especially those selling gifts and involved in catering for those Christmas parties. Shop and restaurant owners need to plan ahead to ensure that they have made arrangements for the disposal of all that extra waste produced at this time of year,” added Councillor Nunn.

The public can find out more information about recycling and refuse collection days by calling 01394 444000, or visit the Council’s website – www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Delivering success as Suffolk Coastal sets new priorities



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

11 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

A greener and safer district and a fresh commitment to delivering quality services are the three main new priorities set by Suffolk Coastal for the coming year after a review showed how well it is delivering on its main targets.

The Council had set six priority areas on which to increase the focus of councillors and officers and this week's Cabinet meeting considered a performance on report on progress to date.

"We have had to recognise that as a Council with increasingly limited resources, we have to prioritise our actions to ensure we are making real progress on the key issues that affect our communities and so further improve the quality of life in our district," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"Following a review of how we were performing on our original six goals, plus a fresh look at what issues have now come to the top of the agenda, we have revised and slightly expanded our list of main priorities.

"We now have seven areas to concentrate on, which include an added emphasis on developing and promoting Green policies and improved management of the environment across our district. Most of our goals cannot be achieved by this Council alone and we will continue to strive to work with our partners and our communities to successfully deliver for all," added Councillor Herring.

The new priorities agreed by the Cabinet are:

- increasing access to housing to meet local needs,
- improved waste management with greater recycling and reduced proportions of waste going to landfill,
- coast and estuary management that will enable key assets to be retained,
- strengthening the economy through facilitating key investments,
- feeling safe and being safe from crime,
- develop and promote Green policies and improved environmental management in the district, and
- deliver well performing, efficient and accessible services to all.

One of the previous goals that has now been turned into a success story was the Council's commitment to improve its planning services, which thanks to the support of staff and councillors, with support from the Government, has been regularly rated among the top 25 per cent performers in the country.

"We wanted to deliver a robust and efficient planning service, and all the evidence shows that we have delivered on that promise. Indeed, this week we heard that our team was set to get the largest planning delivery grant in Suffolk from the Government.

"I should stress that we will continue to keep a close eye on how planning performs as we do

not want a drop in the standards it is now delivering. There have also been real successes in our other priority areas but these are ones that I expect to remain among our main priorities, as they need continual support and attention.

“We are doing well in tackling anti-social behaviour, in encouraging more homes to be built for local people, making it easier for people to recycle, attracting new investment and defending our coastline. All of these issues remain important to our communities and this Council and we know there is still a lot of work to be done before we can all be completely satisfied,” added Councillor Herring.

The Council will continue to review its main priorities and has already agreed to investigate if there needs to be an increased emphasis on health and the issues facing rural communities.



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

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Green issues are now a top priority at Suffolk Coastal



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

11 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

The growing importance of Green issues has seen Suffolk Coastal make it one of its top seven priorities and focus its attention on a range of environmental objectives, including how it can encourage more efficient use of energy.

Last May, the Green Issues Task Group was set up to take a fresh look at how Suffolk Coastal is tackling environmental issues and help set some new additional green targets for the organisation.

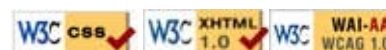
“It was confirmed last week by our Cabinet that developing and promoting Green policies and improved environmental management in the district should be one of this Council’s top priorities,” said Councillor Joan Sennington, Chairman of the Green Issues Task Group.

“With the increasing impact of climate change, the impact of coastal erosion, the ever-rising cost of fuel, and queues of traffic on our roads, we are all becoming more concerned about our environment and protecting it and our quality of life.

“We recognise that this Council has a role to play in making its services and buildings more environmentally-friendly, and by setting an example we can encourage all sections of our communities to play their part as well,” added Coouncillor Sennington.

Suffolk Coastal recently signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on climate change, committing itself with over 150 other councils to take action to reduce the amount of greenhouse gases. It has also backed its renewed Green commitment by agreeing to fund a new post to help achieve its goals.

Today’s (Monday) meeting of the Green Issues Task Group looked at how new housing developments can be made more energy efficient, the latest progress on drawing up a new energy policy for the Council that will help reduce its carbon footprint, and partnership activities underway to tackle carbon emissions across the county.





2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Council on brink of bridging its budget gap



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

12 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

The latest report on planning Suffolk Coastal's spending for the coming financial year has revealed that all but £38,000 of the original £850,000 budget gap has now been successfully bridged.

Last week's Cabinet meeting received a detailed report which spelt out step by step how the Council was right on track to deliver a Council Tax rise of below three per cent in 2007, even after a disappointing grant settlement from the Government which was no more than originally expected.

"This is an excellent achievement as despite having made savings of £6 million since 2001, our work since September has helped us identify over £800,000 worth of efficiencies and additional income without any significant impact on our services," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of the Council.

"It appears that we will be able to deliver on our promise of a Council Tax increase below the rate of inflation despite the Government's miserly grant settlement for this district which has once again failed to take account of the pressures facing this Council.

"This district will get only £198,251 or 2.6 per cent more grant from the Government next year, barely enough to pay for the £180,000 extra costs of the free bus pass scheme that we now have to run. The reality, despite the claims from Whitehall, is that the increases in demand for our services and in our costs are not being met by the Government," added Councillor Herring.

The final budget and service levels will not be decided until the February 26 Council meeting, but last week's Cabinet meeting agreed the package of steps taken so far to balance the budget against income.

All parts of the Council have been successfully reviewed to identify where even more efficiencies or income could be found. These have included a range of measures including £54,000 of additional income from the Port health team at Felixstowe, £18,000 additional income from a five per cent increase in beach hut charges, £42,000 savings from changes to how the planning team works, and £30,000 savings from reduced postage costs as a result of a successful partnership among Suffolk councils.

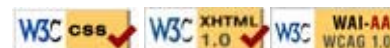
"As well as becoming even more efficient, we have also been able to fund improvements to our existing priority services. For example, we can look forward to nearly 10,000 more homes getting an improved recycling service next year, and we have agreed a new officer to concentrate on green issues.

"There has also been some good financial news that has been a big help for us. The increase in interest rates will help us gain an additional £185,000 in the coming year, while other factors such as a rise in the number of homes, and some rescheduling of capital spending has helped us find nearly £200,000.

"I would also like to thank all those people who have so far given us their views on how we can become more efficient, or where we can raise more income. This is an increasingly tough annual

battle and we cannot afford to relax as we know another £2 million will need to be found over the following two years," added Councillor Herring.

Suffolk Coastal's total budget for the coming financial year is planned to be £14.3 million. The extra costs that are facing the Council include the impact £780,000 of pay and other price increases including energy and fuel, and a £250,000 expansion in its recycling service.



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Holiday guide is set to make a big splash



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

14 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

Letterboxes across the country are set to begin receiving one of the district's must-have publications after today's (Tuesday) launch of the Suffolk Coast Holiday Guide 2007 at one of the district's newest tourist attractions, the National Trust's Seawatch Centre at Dunwich Heath.

The latest issue edition of the Guide, produced by Suffolk Coastal, was officially unveiled today by the Chairman of the Council, Councillor Sir Peter Batho, in time for the Christmas rush to start planning next year's holidays.

"There is a massive interest in the attractions we have on offer in this district, and we are printing 85,000 of this latest edition of our holiday guide which will be requested from far and wide, both nationally and internationally," said Councillor John Perry, Cabinet Member for the Economy and Tourism.

"Since 1974 we have distributed well over one and a half million copies of our guide, and with the growth of the internet it is almost impossible to estimate how many people have looked at it. We know that more than 100,000 visits were made to our tourism pages on our website this year alone.

"The Guide is an extremely useful way to find out where to stay and what to do in our district and can be picked up from one of our tourist information centres, or is available by post, from tourism centres across the country and also by [following this link for more information](#) and an easy to use accommodation search facility," added Councillor Perry.

Produced by the Council's economic development team, there are over 160 entries listed in the Guide, which includes accommodation and places to visit, plus a list of some of the main events planned for the year.

Copies are sent literally all over the world, with promotional adverts in the national media including women's magazines, TV magazines, daily and Sunday newspapers, and specialist publications. The network of over 500 Tourist Information Centres across the country also receive large quantities of the latest Guide.

The most recent annual estimate of how much money was brought into the district as a result of tourism is £170 million, with 4,000 full time equivalent jobs linked to this fast growing employment sector.

Dunwich Heath Seawatch Centre opened earlier this year and enables people to view the wide range of sea life visible in Sole Bay with the use of high-powered telescopes and binoculars.

The Sea Watch centre comprises the Lookout in the Coastguard Cottages and a former World War II generator shed which has been renovated to provide viewing access for less able-bodied people. Both buildings have been transformed and now include interpretation boards on coastal processes, issues and materials to help people identify surrounding sea and offshore species. It means that everyone from novice to expert can enjoy sea watching.





2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Suffolk Coastal's Christmas 2006 opening times



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

14 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill offices will be closed to the public from 4.45pm (cash office 4pm) on Friday, December 22 until 8.45am (cash office 9.15am) on Tuesday, January 2.

The Felixstowe office will close at 4.30pm on Wednesday, December 20 and will re-open on Wednesday, January 3 at 9.00am.

The normal emergency out of hours service provided by Suffolk Coastal will be available throughout the festive period and can be contacted by telephoning 07771 816535.

A wide range of Council service information is on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk where it is also possible to make online payments for Council Tax, Business Rates, car park excess charge notices, housing benefit invoices and other general invoices throughout the holiday period. The automated telephone payment service is also available on 0845 880 1312.

There will be no refuse and recycling collections on Christmas Day, Boxing Day or New Year's Day, and there will be significant changes to these services during the holiday period. Full details have been included in an information card delivered to every home in the district and are also covered in a separate press release.

If you have any enquiries about recycling and refuse collections over the Christmas period, Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd will be open from 8.45am until 4pm on Saturday, December 23 and will open on Wednesday, December 27 to Friday, December 29 and from Tuesday, January 2. Their opening times are 8.45am – 5.15pm Monday to Thursday, 8.45am-4.45pm Friday and they can be contacted on 01394 444000.

Suffolk Coastal's Tourist Information Centres will be closed December 24 to 26 and will re-open at 9am on December 27. They will also be closed on December 31 and January 1.

[2006 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Working to protect Bawdsey's East Lane from the sea



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

15 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

Tonnes of rocks will be used next week as emergency sea defence to help protect part of the district that has suffered some of the most dramatic impacts of coastal erosion over the last few years.

The cliffs at East Lane, Bawdsey have eroded by around two metres over the last year despite some prevention works put in place by the Council, and there is now a great threat to the Martello Tower and two other homes.

“These emergency works will also help protect a planned scheme that we believe will put in place long-term protection for East Lane and safeguard what remains of the cliffs and its properties,” said Cllr Andy Smith, Deputy Leader of Suffolk Coastal and Cabinet Member for Coast Protection.

“This is an important site for the district, not just because of its historic fort that was erected during the Napoleonic wars. Without some major preventative works, we are in real danger of seeing extensive flooding between East Lane and Shingle Street, with long-term threats to acres of agricultural land, and other heritage assets.

“We need to carry out this latest scheme that will provide a sustainable long-term solution as soon as possible, but in the short-term we must also carry out works to get the area through the winter storms. The emergency works will see rocks being put in place before Christmas, with further work planned for next month,” added Cllr Smith.

In the last few days, plans have also been submitted for planning permission for the permanent scheme that would see the existing rock defences being extended to the south providing much needed protection from waves coming from the south-east. This should also help create a shingle beach where erosion is currently taking place.

An outer protective limb would be installed to reduce the impact of waves coming from the north-east and the east. It is predicted that this would create a robust and complete defence that would put a halt to the erosion of the cliffs.

“The expert advice is that this scheme would mean we would be able to hold a line against the waves some 35 metres away from the Martello Tower, which is excellent news.

“We will have to apply for Government funding for the scheme, but the likelihood is that none will be forthcoming as not enough money is being set aside nationally for coastal defence work despite the increasing need.

“However, contingency plans are underway after detailed talks between this Council and the East Lane Trust which should mean that the estimated £1.5 million cost of this scheme can be found in other ways. This is so much more than just trying to protect an important historical building, so it is vital that long-term protection is soon put in place,” added Cllr Smith.



[2006 news archive](#)

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Cheaper car parking lined up after Council listens to public



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

20 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

It will be cheaper to park at four of Suffolk Coastal's car parks from April after the Council agreed to introduce a new 40 pence for one hour or less rate in response to calls from the public.

The new charges will apply to car parks by Woodbridge station, the community hall and Deben Swimming pool, and also at The Avenue, and next to Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

"We have agreed to introduce this new rate following requests from users of these community facilities who were unhappy about paying 70 or 80 pence when they were only parking for less than an hour," said Cllr Andy Smith, Deputy Leader of the Council and Chairman of the Car Park Task Group.

"From April, anyone using the three Woodbridge car parks for an hour will be paying exactly what they were in 2005, and in Felixstowe it will actually be 10 pence cheaper than it used to be.

"We did consult widely when the price changes were introduced earlier this year, but no-one really predicted the problems that have occurred. Now they have been brought to our attention, I am pleased we are able to adapt our pricing policy to meet public demand," added Cllr Smith.

As part of a district-wide review of car parking charges, the prices at The Station, Station Road and The Avenue car parks in Woodbridge and the Leisure Centre car park in Felixstowe were raised in April 2006.

None of the Woodbridge car parks are designed for short-stays, as the main areas for shoppers are around the Hamblin Road car parks. However, visitors to the regular indoor markets held at the community hall have dropped after the minimum charge for parking rose from 40 to 70 pence for two hours.

"The car parks remain excellent value if people are staying for two hours, but I can understand why those who are using them for less than an hour have been put off by the current charge. We are ready to be flexible and that is why the new rate of only 40 pence for the first hour will be introduced.

"Unfortunately we cannot introduce this change straight away, but come April 1 I can promise those people using these four car parks that it will not be an April's Fool prank that they can park for the same price they were paying a couple of years ago," added Cllr Smith.

2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Police warn about possible raves over Christmas



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

21 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

Police are issuing a warning to farmers, landowners and hall managers after receiving information that illegal raves may be staged in Suffolk over the Christmas period.

With the weather likely to remain cold and foggy, organisers may look to target indoor venues such as barns, large out-buildings and halls and police are urging those responsible for this type of building to take measures to protect their property.

Eastern Area operations manager Superintendent Ian Sidney said police would continue to take action to try to stop any illegal event.

“As always police will act to prevent any illegal, unlicensed gathering. These events are unregulated and therefore police are concerned both for the safety of rave-goers and about the disruption that can be caused to local communities.

“We would appeal to anyone thinking of organising an illegal event to consider the ongoing demands on Suffolk Constabulary during the murder enquiries and ask anyone thinking of attending such an event to think how they would feel if it were a member of their family and we had to divert resources elsewhere.

“However if they persist and go ahead we will prosecute any identified organisers.”

Officers have successfully prosecuted those responsible for raves in Suffolk and stopped other events during the past year, but are calling on the public to help by reporting any information about raves or sightings of large groups of vehicles gathering.

Police are also advising managers of local venues to be wary of people making bookings at very short notice, particularly if they are not local. If you don't know a person making the booking, take a full, verifiable address and contact number for them and ask for an appropriate damage deposit, in cash, up front.

Landowners should secure buildings, gates and access routes to buildings if possible.

Anyone with information should call Suffolk Police on 01473 613500.

This press release was issued by Suffolk Police on December 21, 2006

(Suffolk Coastal has contacted its network of local landowners to warn them of possible rave activities in our district and encouraged them to take preventative action)



2006 news archive

How do you rate this information or service?



[Home](#) > [News from Suffolk Coastal](#) > [News archive](#) > [2006 news archive](#) >

Severe weather warning to residents



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

29 Dec 2006

Archived press release.

Suffolk Coastal is heeding the announcements issued by the Meteorological Office and is warning its local residents to be particularly aware of the high winds expected across the district over the weekend.

High winds of up to 70 miles per hour have been forecast by the Meteorological Office for tomorrow night (Saturday) with lower but still significant winds throughout the rest of the weekend.

There is a significant risk that residents in parts of the Suffolk Coastal district could be harmed unless due care is taken and the emergency planning team at Suffolk Coastal is recommending that, under such conditions, people should take extra care.

Residents should beware of falling trees or branches, particularly if they are driving, and it would be best to stay away from woods or forested areas while the high winds persist.

The Met Office is forecasting a very disturbed spell of weather over the next few days, with short periods of damaging winds affecting many regions. East Anglia is expected to get a spell of heavy rain and squally winds on Saturday evening with damaging gusts of 70 mph possible in this period and a 70 per cent risk of disruption.

While it will be windy at other times, noticeably tonight (Friday) and again on Sunday evening (New Year's Eve), the winds then are less likely to be damaging. Gusts of 40-50 mph are more likely but these could of course have some disruptive effect on New Year celebrations.

For more information about the weather contact the Met Office Customer Centre 0870 900 0100 or [visit the Met Office website \(new window\)](#).