

COASTLINE

The Newsletter of Suffolk Coastal District Council

Issue 47, Autumn / Winter 2011

Wins all round as coast defence works brought forward

Most of Central Felixstowe's beach will be open all next summer following the Council's decision to press ahead with more of the vital coastal defence works this year. The £10 million scheme to provide strengthened coastal protection got underway in August.

"Inevitably we are at the mercy of the weather as to the exact timing, but we hope to get all of the main part of phase two completed by early in the new year, which will mean the majority of Central Felixstowe's beaches will be back to their former glories and open to the public for all of next summer," said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

"All 18 new rock groynes should be in place in the new year, and the recharge of the northern part with sand and shingle pumped onto the beach also finished. This will give the resort and the beach better protection from the traditional pounding it gets during the spring," added Cllr Smith.

The works are from the War Memorial, around Cobbold's Point and along to Jacob's Ladder. The first phase includes building the first nine rock groynes, the recharging and topping up of the beach between Harvest House and Cobbold's Point and temporary improvements to the revetment along the southern section of Cobbold's Point to provide additional protection over the winter.

The second phase is the building of the remaining nine rock groynes and the revetment to the south of Cobbold's Point and the maintenance access and walk way linking Cobbold's Point and Jacob's Ladder.

“There will still be some significant work at Cobbold’s Point to be completed in April, but it will minimise any disruption to the resort’s summer season.

“The scheme is designed to protect over 1,500 homes, businesses and open spaces from coastal erosion over the next 100 years so the sooner we can get it in place the better,” added Cllr Smith.

Sound systems seized as Council and police work in harmony

Peace and quiet returned in September after joint action by the police and the Council saw the seizure of a large amount of sound equipment from an illegal event near to Sutton Heath and Bromeswell.

“There has been a growing problem with noise caused by outdoor activities at or close to the travellers’ site at Rendlesham Forest and residents have had to put up with a lot in the last year or two, so I am sure they share my pleasure at this positive action,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

“To peacefully shut down an illegal event like this does require significant police resources, and circumstances came together that meant our staff were able to safely enforce noise abatement notices thanks to the back-up of 30 or so police officers,” added Cllr Nunn.

A whole range of equipment was taken away, including loudspeakers and a generator.

“The local Safer Neighbourhood Team has been working with Suffolk Coastal District Council and the traveller liaison officer to resolve this problem for some time,” said Superintendent Ian Sidney of Suffolk Police.

Chairman Sennington

After being a district and Felixstowe town councillor for seven years, Councillor Joan Sennington has become Suffolk Coastal’s new Chairman after being elected in May, taking over from Cllr Veronica Falconer.

John Klaschka

As Coastline went to press the sad and untimely death was announced of John Klaschka, district councillor for Kesgrave East. He was also a county councillor.

Want a petition?

Suffolk Coastal welcomes petitions and recognises that they are one way in which people can let us know their concerns. You can do it all online – visit

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

Benefits cheats in court

Suffolk Coastal's ongoing partnership work to catch those wrongly claiming benefits has seen further success recently in the courts.

Paul Cable, 59, of Sun Lane, Woodbridge dishonestly claimed over £7,000 of benefits after failing to disclose his county council pension and was given a 12 week prison sentence, suspended for 12 months, ordered to pay £150 costs by magistrates in Ipswich.

Karen Todhunter, 47, of Broomheath, Woodbridge pleaded guilty to dishonestly claiming around £5,000 of benefits, despite having £102,000 of savings, and was fined £150, with £150 costs.

Online help to claim benefits is on

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/benefits/ or call 01394 444838.

Suffolk Coastal's Fraud Hotline for residents to confidentially report suspected benefit frauds is 01394 444444.

Suffolk Coastal District Council contact details

Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU or www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or email scdc@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Emergencies outside office hours: 01502 527133

Planning Advice 01394 444403 / 01394 444428

Council Tax 01394 444855

Housing Benefits 01394 444838

Business Rates 01394 444544

Port Health 01394 614933

General Enquiries 01394 383789

Office Hours Monday to Thursday* 8.45am - 5.15pm Friday 8.45am - 4.45pm * doors open at 9.30am on Wednesdays

Refuse and Recycling 01394 444000

Also call this number for street cleansing, car parks, public toilets, abandoned cars, ground maintenance - all provided by Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd.

Tourist Information Centres

Aldeburgh 01728 453637; Felixstowe 01394 276770; Woodbridge 01394 382240

Leisure Centres (managed by DC Leisure)

Felixstowe 01394 670411; Brackenburg 01394 270278; Leiston 01728 830364; Deben Pool 01394 384763.

Christmas opening and bin collection times

The Council's offices will be closed on the bank holidays of Monday, December 26, Tuesday, December 27, and Monday, January 2, but will be open as usual on all other days. We're open 24/7 on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Our SCS refuse and recycling collection teams will be working normally every day except Boxing Day. If your bins are due to be emptied on December 26, please put them out on Saturday, December 24 by 7.30am.

Car park charges

Residents could soon be asked for their views on the first round of town centre car parking increases since 2006 if Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet backs the proposals to help fill a £2.8million budget gap.

Changing numbers

Please take note that our emergency telephone service outside of office hours has changed and for both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils is now 01502 527133. The police now have a non-emergency number of 101.

Seafront Gardens get £2m boost

Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens project has won £2.2 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) to complete ambitious plans to breathe fresh life into this historic feature.

"It is fantastic that the HLF awarded us the Parks for People grant and I look forward to seeing work begin on restoring the gardens and encouraging even more people to come and enjoy them. This is the latest big investment that is helping to regenerate the town and resort of Felixstowe," said Councillor Geoff Holdcroft, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Economic Development.

The exciting designs were drawn up by the Felixstowe Futures team and Lanarca, with community input. They include improved access, lighting, furniture and seating, restoring heritage features including the octagonal and round shelters, and the pump house, creating a heritage trail, restoring ponds and planting, an outdoor performance space and a new shelter close to the Town Hall.

"The next stage is to complete the detailed design and then appoint contractors. Works on site are anticipated to begin in September 2012 and finished by the end of 2013," added Cllr Holdcroft.

The total project cost is £2,761,100, with £2,194,100 from the HLF, £361,500 from the Suffolk Coastal Local Authority Business Growth Incentive Grant, £100,000 from the Haven Gateway Partnership, and the rest from sponsorship, volunteer contributions and support from Felixstowe Town Council and the Felixstowe Futures team.

- Find out more about the Felixstowe Futures team at a special exhibition on Thursday, December 8 at Felixstowe Town Hall between 2pm and 5pm.

Sharing means big savings for us and Waveney

The pioneering shared services partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils is now set to save at least £4.5 million by March 2015, and this figure is constantly increasing.

This summer saw a further reduction of the size and cost of the two Councils' shared senior management team after Strategic Director, Stephen Archer, left to work in Aberdeen.

“We were one of the first Councils to share a Chief Executive and since Stephen Baker took on this joint role, we have been committed to working more closely together. This led to us sharing one senior management team from October 2010, with a third fewer posts than before,” said Suffolk Coastal Leader Councillor Ray Herring.

The Leaders of the two Councils recently hailed their partnership as a ‘blueprint for modern, local government service delivery’ after a report that savings had now reached £900,000 per year.

“We are striving to be more efficient while keeping the two separate Councils. We will do everything we can on a joint basis but still deal with local issues in a local way, when there is a need to do so,” said Cllr Colin Law, Waveney’s Leader.

Shared services include audit, coastal protection, human resources, ICT, environmental protection and parts of the revenues and benefits team.

Comments being considered

Comments are currently being assessed about two key documents in the Reviewed Core Strategy (RCS), which will control the district’s future development for the next 20 years and which was backed by Suffolk Coastal’s Full Council in July.

If only minor changes are required, then these will be made and the RCS will be submitted to an independent planning inspector after another Full Council meeting. However, if more significant alterations are required, there will be a further review.

Boundary comments

Comment by December 5 on proposals for new Parliamentary constituency boundaries which would see no change in Suffolk - visit <http://consultation.boundarycommissionforengland.independent.gov.uk/whats-proposed/eastern/>.

Help to make a local change

A new initiative called Change Makers is underway in Suffolk Coastal and Alison Jordan is ready to help people turn their big idea into reality and so add a special little extra to the local quality of life.

“This is an excellent new project which is being pioneered in our district thanks to our backing but which if successful could roll out across the whole of the county,” said Dr Wil Gibson, Board member of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (SCLSP).

The scheme is targeted at those who want to start something new, or make something better or just put it right. It could include setting up a club or group, or organising an activity, learning or teaching new skills, or just generally helping people in the local community.

Alison has already been busy helping someone who has renovated a double decker bus that could be offered for use by local charities, and a mother in Grundisburgh who wants to set up a playgroup in the village.

Alison Jordan can be contacted on 01473 273273 or 07531 852 112. Alison is funded by the SCLSP and supported by the Suffolk Coastal Resource Network, another SCLSP backed project.

Working together for the district

The 2011 Annual Forum of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership was due to be held on November 11 bringing together people from organisations across the whole district.

This important event, with a theme this year of Creating Prosperity from the Ground Up, gives the opportunity for a sharing of knowledge and expertise and will promote closer working together for the benefit of communities in Suffolk Coastal.

“The drive to devolve power directly to individuals and local communities is about putting people back in control of the decisions and services that matter most to them and encouraging communities to take greater control of their area,” said Cllr Ray Herring, Chairman of the LSP Board.

“This offers challenging but exciting opportunities for our local communities, the public sector and local enterprise to provide new or essential local services and deliver localism by working together in our district.

“However, there is no route map of what’s involved so this event will investigate the risks, challenges and benefits and offer the opportunity to share ideas and experience of how we can make it happen successfully for our communities in Suffolk Coastal”, added Cllr Herring.

To find out more about the LSP and how it is making a difference visit www.sclsp.org.uk

Operation Camouflage helps young people shine

Young people from across the district stepped up to the challenge to take part in Suffolk Coastal’s army themed summer activity camp, Operation Camouflage. The three day camp saw 55 recruits aged 10 to 16 enlist at Rock Barracks near Sutton, the home of the 23rd Engineer Regiment (Air Assault) to try something a bit different.

“Operation Camouflage has proved to be very popular with young people giving them the chance to take part in fun-filled, daring activities ranging from sports and crafts to the Army challenge course,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) Board Member for Young People.

The project, now in its fourth year, has been supported by the Suffolk Coastal Community Safety Partnership, the LSP, the Army Welfare Service and the Ministry of Defence.

Emergency kits for communities

To help make local communities more resilient, special kits have been put together providing helpful equipment in case of an emergency containing items such as batteries, torches, blankets, some food supplies, a first aid kit, and even some games and toys to help keep children occupied.

Boxes are being given to Bawdsey, Butley, Hollesley and Levington and will be kept in a community location. They are part of the Community Environmental Action Fund, funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership and the Environment Agency.

To find out more about the emergency boxes or how to make communities more resilient, contact the community environmental action advisor on 01394 444218 or email dan.wheals@groundwork.org.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/ecoaction/

CEAF helps Boyton go greener

Local communities are reaping the benefits after taking advantage of the green help on offer from the Community Environmental Action Fund (CEAF) and a free expert advisor.

Boyton recently received £1,000 from the CEAF to help boost its community projects including a Greener Homes DIY insulation event. A vegetable sharing scheme, a group buy scheme for heating oil, with sharing energy saving initiatives and cars could be next.

The CEAF and advisor Dan Wheals can offer help to communities. Among those backing the initiative are Suffolk Coastal and the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

To find out more about the CEAF contact Dan on 01394 444218 or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/ecoaction

Stepping out to a stronger future

The Stepping Out in Suffolk initiative that has encouraged hundreds of people to take up walking to improve their health and fitness is now under new management after being set up with help from the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (SCLSP) and Suffolk Coastal District Council.

“Stepping Out has been a great success story. It offers people the free chance to have a healthy walk with the guidance of a trained volunteer and is ideal for everyone, especially those who may be recovering from illness or need to improve their fitness levels,” said

Dr Jeptepkeny Ronoh, SCLSP Board Member for Healthier Lives for All.

Stepping Out in Suffolk has now transferred to Livewell Suffolk. Visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/steppingout/ for more information or call 01473 229292.

Volunteer? Time to sign up

The call has gone out to all volunteers and voluntary groups in Suffolk Coastal to register on Do-It.org, and so help build up local groups and get the volunteers they need.

Those groups on the west side of the A12 should register with Volunteer Centre Framlingham and the east side with Volunteer Ipswich, while groups in the Woodbridge area can register with either body. Both centres can support existing volunteers, and people interested in volunteering, to find the right opportunities.

Forms can be obtained by calling Kirk Jackson at Volunteer Ipswich on 01473 261116 or Framlingham's Jan Wright on 01728 621210. The Suffolk Coastal Resource Network has urged groups to sign up. It is a Suffolk Coastal LSP backed project that has helped over 400 groups gain more than £500,000 of national, regional and local funding.

Planning for future of the Alde and Ore

The results are still being compiled from a call to all those with an interest in the Alde and Ore communities to give their views on three exciting documents setting out a way forward for the area.

“The Alde and Ore Futures project is a ground-breaking approach to tackling issues affecting life, including social, economic and environmental, around the Alde and Ore Estuary, from Thorpeness to Shingle Street and inland as far as Blaxhall, and these three documents follow 1,400 hours of community time spent on the project,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Chairman of the Suffolk Coast Futures Executive Group.

“The goal now is to take all this excellent work already achieved by the local communities and turn it into an action plan that will map out a framework for the future of the Alde and Ore area for the next 20 years or so,” added Cllr Smith.

The themes of the three documents are ‘Building the Local Economy’, ‘Managing the Coastal Environment’, and ‘Thriving and Viable Communities’ and addressed local issues like affordable housing, broadband provision, farming, and the tourist trade. The documents can still be seen online at www.suffolkcoastfutures.org.uk.

Bags of protection at Thorpeness

Fabric bags filled with sand and shingle are now being put in place as part of an innovative partnership scheme to provide improved protection to Thorpeness’s coastline.

The scheme to reconstruct and strengthen the damaged coast defence at the northern end of Thorpeness has been made possible by a partnership involving Suffolk Coastal, the Environment Agency and local residents.

“It is great that the £400,000 second phase is repairing and strengthening the damaged existing defences, so reducing the immediate threat to local homes from coastal erosion,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Coastal Management.

“Most of the funding is from the Government via the Environment Agency, with the remainder coming from this Council and most importantly local residents, as without their latest £65,000 commitment, following on from their £72,000 for the first phase, the scheme would not have got the Government’s backing,” added Cllr Smith.

J Breheny Contractors Ltd are putting 2,078 bags, laid eight to ten layers deep, on over one and a half square miles of geo-fabric, making a 600 foot toe-shaped structure that will provide vital support to the existing rock filled wire basket revetment.

Following emergency works by Suffolk Coastal in the spring of 2010 to contain some unusual and significant coastal erosion, phase one started last October with 1,450 large geo-textile bags filled with sand and shingle put in front of the eroded cliff.

It is hoped that the work will be finished by mid-January. For more information visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/coastalprotection/thorpeness

Looking back to success and achievements - annual report 2010/11

by Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal

There is no hiding the fact that these are tough financial times for all of us as we all struggle to cope with rising costs and falling income. This Council like probably every family in the district has had to address a whole host of challenges that are out of our control but have impacted significantly on our daily lives.

Elsewhere you can read in Coastline about how we are facing up to the tough choices facing us for next year's budget. However, on these three pages, we are focussing our attention on reporting back to you on what was achieved in our last completed financial year, 2010/11.

At the time, when we agreed a budget that included £1.85 million savings, we thought that we had set firm foundations to ensure that our finances would be fairly secure for the next three years. The scale of the economic problems facing the new Government elected in June 2010 resulted in us having to revise our plans.

Our budget for 2010/11 saw a Council Tax rise of just 2.9 per cent, or eight pence a week for the average Band D home. It was the seventh year in a row that we had kept our Council Tax increase to below five per cent a year, and our spending plans brought the amount of savings and efficiencies to over £10 million in just 10 years.

While we can be rightly proud of the way we have managed the Council's finances in recent years, and you can also read the independent's expert view on this page as well, it is a great

achievement that we succeeded in maintaining or improving the quality of so many of our services last year as well.

You can read more about what we achieved in 2010/11 over the next two pages but deserving of particular attention are the facts that:-

- With your help and support we broke the 60% figure for recycling in our district in half the year, and overall at 58% for the year we had the seventh best recycling rate in the country. Diverting all those tonnes of rubbish away from going in the tip meant you saved over £1m in landfill taxes in 2010 alone!
- A new shared management structure was introduced with our partners at Waveney which means savings of £400,000 a year with a third fewer posts.
- We fought for and won over £10 million of Government funding which is seeing vital coastal defences works be carried out now at Central Felixstowe and Thorpeness.
- The county's first antisocial behaviour team was set up in our Melton Hill offices, playing a part in the drop in crime in the district.
- We have been supporting local community led projects across the district that are helping to boost the local economy
- We won over £2 million to help breathe fresh life into Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens
- We helped increase the number of affordable homes in the district

These are all significant achievements, nearly all of which would not have been possible without our commitment to work in partnership with Waveney and others to ensure that we are providing the efficient value for money services that you have told us you want.

Council securing value for money for its residents

An annual review of the Council's finances has concluded that it has in place the proper arrangements for securing value for money in the use of its resources. The latest Audit Commission Annual Governance Report for 2010/11 was presented to Full Council in September.

“This important independent audit of our management processes has again recognised that we are doing what we can to ensure that we are getting value for money from our limited, and indeed decreasing,

financial resources,” said Councillor Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

“There are still improvements that we can and will make but this report confirms that we have got the correct arrangements in place to secure ‘economy, efficiency and effectiveness’ in our use of resources.

“The report also states that we have firm arrangements in place to ensure we continue to challenge our services and the way they are provided to ensure that we maintain our key focus of providing value for money to all our residents. I think it is particularly significant that it reports that we have avoided quick fixes to bridge our budget gap and have instead concentrated on long-term answers,” added Cllr Whiting.

The report notes that the Council had a savings and efficiency plan in place for 2010/11 that helped achieve nearly £600,000 of additional savings. ‘The focus has been on longer term financial solutions rather than short-term financial fixes. There is no evidence of dependency on reserves and investment income to balance budgets, or the use of reserves to fund recurrent expenditure.’

The fact that the Council has also reviewed its priorities in light of increased financial pressures is also reported, as well as there being ‘evidence of strong leadership from senior management and Members to ensure that resources are prioritised and there is a focus on spending reductions.’

Annual Report 2010/11

Develop a safe and healthy community with access to leisure opportunities

Crime for the year fell 8.75% - to 5,343. In the final quarter, the percentage of crime that was criminal damage which includes vandalism fell to its lowest level at 19% for several years.

The Suffolk Coastal Anti-Social Behaviour team involving staff from the Council and police and support from other organisations was created and based at Melton Hill. The first partnership team of its type in the county with the aim of making it easier to coordinate

action against those carrying out anti-social behaviour (ASB) in our communities. The team have a referral process with police to support and assist ASB issues they're dealing with. There are now far fewer reports of low level ASB, such as neighbour boundary disputes, so the ASB team can concentrate successfully on more serious matters. Among the many initiatives run during the year to increase community safety were:

- Felixstowe Town Pastors were launched in April and were subsequently given drug training.
- An Impact event involving the police, Suffolk Coastal, the County Council and other organisations carried out a one-day blitz in Felixstowe, tackling issues like truancy, untaxed cars, litter and sales of alcohol to under age customers.
- Drugs training for Saxmundham licensees.
- Operation Camouflage.
- Legal high radio campaign targeted at young people and warning them about the health hazards of so-called legal drugs.
- Smart water packs issued in Saxmundham and Leiston to combat burglaries by allowing residents to put an invisible DNA like substance on important possessions and equipment.
- Domestic Violence coordinator appointed and a new forum set up to help those suffering from abusive relationships.
- Test purchasing in Woodbridge in December found two illegal sales of alcohol. Fixed penalty notices issued.
- Teen Costa and Connect 42 projects helped target a core group of young people in Woodbridge who were behaving anti-socially.
- Police now have enforcement powers in car parks to tackle vehicle related anti- social behaviour.
- Free swimming for over 60s ended in July after Government funding withdrawn but our district had the second highest take-up in the east of England, 33rd in England. DC Leisure, who run our sports centres, encouraged people to get a discount card and there was a 5% increase in Coastal Cards issued.
- DC Leisure spent £95,000 refurbishing Felixstowe Leisure Centre's gym.
- August saw a month of summer holiday activities for young people across the district.

- Graffiti blitz in Woodbridge.
- The first Film Flurry festival was held with movies and activities for young children.
- The Go with the Flow bus visited nine different villages, thanks to SCLSP support.

Protect and enhance the environment

Thanks to your support for our improved collection services it was a record year for recycling, reaching a peak of 62.1% in one quarter and an overall average for the year of 58.7% for the year. This was the seventh highest percentage in the country.

- Street sweepings are composted rather than landfilled.
- Schools in urban areas got their food waste collected. Food waste from the county council's schools in the district are now taken to the Adnams plant at Reydon to be turned into a natural gas pumped into the National Grid.
- About half of all business waste from SCS customers is now recycled.
- Despite the severe winter weather, no day when most if not all collections made.
- Funding of £10m formally approved in April for Central Felixstowe coastal defences.
- Emergency repair work was carried out at Thorpeness, and a new protection scheme was drawn up and approved with the support of the local community, phase one of which was completed in January.
- Draft Shoreline Management Plan submitted to Government.
- Community environmental action advisor began work in July 2010.
- Interest free loan fund for renewable energy installations has been successful, with EERA funding.
- Greener Homes DIY scheme rolled out.
- District had the highest amount of referrals in region for insulation works.
- Amount of paper used by the Council dropped by a third compared to previous year.
- Working in partnership with British Gas, we got £10k to carry out insulation works in 20 homes in Felixstowe, with Leiston and Saxmundham next.

- Greener Sax got funding to do community activities. – helped 44 homes become more energy efficient.
- Boyton was the second group to get funding – helped 18 homes become more energy efficient with insulation rolls, draught proofing, water butts. Cookley and Walpole, plus Eyke have also been doing local green activities.
- 76 people attended a November workshop resilient communities and organisations in a changing climate.
- Held a supply chain network meeting to help organisations improve their energy efficiency.
- Five projects won the first Quality of place awards marking efforts to add or protect the look of the district.
- 32 towns and parishes assisted or supported by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (SCLSP) on community led plans issues, such as housing needs surveys.
- The SCLSP backed future landscapes project is gathering evidence to work out how farming and local communities will be affected by climate change and how those effects could be mitigated.

Meet housing needs

- The success of the homelessness advice team to give help to prevent people becoming homeless saw a record year for how few people needed to be found temporary accommodation, with by the end of the year no-one temporarily housed.
- With three other districts, the Council is using £500,000 of regional funding to bring empty homes back into use, with grants on offer if they need improvements. Our share of £159,000 allocated to 19 homes, of which 10 were completed and rented out at affordable rents.
- Our Renovation Grant policy helped bring nine homes back into use – these must be affordable rents for next 20 years.

Support our economy

- Our environmental business advisor helped over 80 businesses identify potential savings of over £350,000 and diverted over 200 tonnes of rubbish away from landfill.

- Thanks to support of the environmental business advisor, Leiston's The Warden's Trust installed a biomass boiler, and Benhall's Railway Farm Shop got £5,000 funding for green improvements.
- The Council-backed Heritage Coast Market Towns Initiative which encourages social and economic improvements in IP15,16 and 17, delivered 40,000 copies of an Aldeburgh business guide.
- Our tourism team introduced rail ticketing at Aldeburgh and a rail card service at Woodbridge, while activities at Felixstowe included a road train which got over 1,000 customers, falconry displays and a Christmas ice rink. 60,000 copies of 2011 holiday guide were produced.
- Our Felixstowe Futures team helped develop a brand for Felixstowe. The Triangle covered public space was created, and new public toilets were opened in Crescent Road car park, including a specialist Changing Places cubicle for disabled people.
- Helped fund station car park improvements at Campsea Ashe and Melton rail stations.
- The SCLSP backed Suffolk Coastal Training Network is helping residents gain training and so get back into work.
- A Sizewell Task Group was set up, along with a project team, to represent the interests of local communities if plans for the development of a new nuclear power station are submitted.
- PHILIS, the new information system created for the Council's port health team at Felixstowe won national recognition, and has been bought by other ports, so bringing in income and saving money.
- The Food Hygiene Ratings Scheme was launched giving public ratings for over 1,100 food businesses in the district.

What would you do to bridge our budget gap?

Everyone with an interest in the district is set to be asked in November to give their views on what Suffolk Coastal should do to bridge the daunting budget gap facing the Council over the next four years.

The gap between the Council's income and the cost of its current services will rise to £2.8 million despite all the measures it has taken since 2001 which has seen it save £10 million.

"With our long-term commitment to providing value for money services that our residents want, I think we have a proud record of delivering efficiencies while also maintaining and even improving services," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"However, the financial situation facing us is starker than ever. We are working non-stop with our partners to squeeze every possible efficiency out of our services by working together and so reducing costs, but we are facing some tough decisions which is why we need help from our communities.

"We need their views on what services could be cut back even further, whether some need more backing, and even if some should be stopped altogether. I hope that over the coming weeks people will let us know what they think we should do," added Cllr Herring.

People will be asked whether the Council's reducing resources should be focused on priority services, if spending on some services should be reduced or kept the same, whether the service should be run by another organisation, or stopped altogether, or whether charges should be introduced or increased.

To help it face the challenges, the Council is adopting a new business plan. This will reflect not just the financial issues it faces, but also the Government's increasing emphasis on localism and growth – giving communities more say and control in local decisions while recognising the economic necessity of creating more jobs.

"We are currently reviewing every aspect of what we do, as indeed are our colleagues at Waveney, so we can match our increasingly limited resources with the priorities of the Government and our residents.

"It is inevitable that we will have to change and our goal is to an even more modern and progressive working in partnership with our communities to meet their priority needs. Now, more than ever, we

will all have to work together for a better future for our district,” added Cllr Herring.

The Council has already been meeting with town and parish councils for their views on the way forward, and between now and December will be asking the public to comment online, as well as directly approaching other community groups as well.

Visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/whatwouldyoudo to find out more about the situation facing the Council, the services that it wants your views on whether to invest in or reduce spending in or withdraw, and how income can be increased.

Recent successes

- Saving and efficiencies of over £10m
- Sharing with Waveney is delivering savings of £900,000 a year
- One-third fewer senior management posts
- Gained £20m of external funding
- Protected priority services
- Seventh best recycling rate in the country
- We are still debt free

Where your Council Tax goes

76.4% County Council

10.1% Suffolk Coastal

10.8% Police

2.7% Town and Parishes

Future challenges and financial pressures

- Cut of 30% in Government funding
- Rising inflation and unemployment
- Ageing population
- Changes in housing benefit management and funding
- Changes to planning regulations
- Demand for services

Quality celebrated with local designs

The efforts being made by people across Suffolk Coastal to add to its quality by helping conserve historic buildings or the local landscape or nature, or introducing new innovative designs were recently celebrated at the second annual Quality of Place awards.

“This Council is committed to encouraging high quality design and conserving the best of our district, and this awards ceremony was a chance to applaud some of the excellent efforts being made locally that will hopefully encourage others to follow the example being set,” said Councillor Veronica Falconer, who chaired the panel of judges.

The Building Conservation Award went to a converted Grade II listed church in Woodbridge. The Design Award went jointly to White Gate Lodge, Hollesley, and Melton’s Hoo House. A highly commended Nature/Landscape certificate was given to the Notcutts Nursery Grounds in Woodbridge. To see more visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/policy/qualityofplace/2011awards/

Holiday mansion loses appeal

An independent planning inspector has backed Suffolk Coastal’s decision to stop Melton’s St Audry’s House being used for holiday accommodation after complaints about noise and general disturbance. Prestige Holiday Lettings was given six months to comply with the decision.

“Planning permission was granted for it to be used as a family home, and indeed it was from 1999 to 2007 until it was bought by the current owner. Unfortunately, it has since been marketed for holidays and it has generated many complaints,” said Councillor Bob Snell, Chairman of Suffolk Coastal’s Development Control Committee.

Get ready to tell us what you think of your conservation area

Do you live in Blythburgh, Brandeston, Cretingham, Darsham, Dennington, Huntingfield or Saxtead? If you do, or even if you don’t but you are still interested, you might like to have a read of our draft

conservation area appraisals which will be published for public consultation in the New Year.

These appraisals try to define the character of the conservation areas as a guide for future changes, and suggest how they can be managed and improved. There are no proposals in them to alter boundaries but may include suggestions.

The Government has asked us to have appraisals in place for all 34 of our conservation areas. If you would like to register your interest in commenting on the draft appraisals email the Design and Conservation team at conservation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

If you live in Aldeburgh, Dunwich, Framlingham, Walberswick or Snape Maltings draft appraisals for your conservation area will be ready for public consultation in summer 2012.

Conservation areas not only protect buildings, including those that are unlisted buildings, but also open spaces, trees and special features that make an area locally distinctive.

Action to improve air quality

The Government backed proposals drawn up by Suffolk Coastal, with help from the public, to improve air quality in Woodbridge, with 20 agreed measures now being implemented.

“We will now report back yearly on how effective our measures are being in improving air quality at this one problem area in Woodbridge, the busy road junction of Lime Kiln Quay Road, Thoroughfare, and St John’s Street,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The action plan is on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/envprotection/airquality/woodbridge/

Saving Trimley Station campaign right on track

The actions of local people to save Trimley Station from demolition appear to have been successful with a company board being set up to take on its lease.

“Some additional volunteers stepped forward with the necessary experience after a productive meeting with the East Suffolk Preservation Trust, and the next step is to formally register Friends of Trimley Station Ltd,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

“A business plan for the building, drawn up by Suffolk Acre and Trimley St Mary Parish Council, would see it become a community café, a large meeting room and an office space. It is excellent news that these ideas can now be turned into reality but the continued support of the community will still be vital,” added Cllr Smith.

Network Rail has promised a two year lease, and a long-term lease after that, if the Friends are successful in weather proofing the building and getting the funds that they need.

EDSF can help local communities grow

Wickham Market got an early Christmas present from Suffolk Coastal’s Economic Development Support Fund (EDSF) which has paid out over £95,000 to 20 grassroots projects to boost the local economy.

“The EDSF is helping make a significant difference and we still have £53,000 left for schemes to help breathe some extra life into our district’s local economies,” said Councillor Geoff Holdcroft, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Economic Development.

Submitted and supported by the Wickham Market Partnership, the £1,409 EDSF successful bid will see the square lit up on Sunday, November 27 after the fitting of the brackets, trees and lights, with a Fair on Saturday, December 3 from 10am to 4pm.

Other EDSF projects include a Kesgrave business breakfast club, hanging baskets in Aldeburgh, improvements to Saxmundham town centre during the Christmas period and a Leiston business advisor.

For more on EDSF visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople/communitygrants/supportfund or you can call 01394 444625.

Your Suffolk Coastal councillors

On May 5, all 55 seats on Suffolk Coastal District Council were up for election. The Conservatives retained control with 44 seats, the Liberal Democrats won 5, Labour 4 and two independents were elected. At the May Annual Council Meeting Cllr Ray Herring was re-elected as the Council Leader, with Cllr Joan Sennington becoming the Chairman.

Cllr Herring's Cabinet is made up of Cllr Andy Smith (Planning), Cllr Robert Whiting (Resources), Cllr Doreen Savage (Customers and Partners), Cllr Andrew Nunn (Green Environment), Cllr Mary Neale (Community Health), Cllr T-J Haworth (Housing) and Cllr Geoff Holdcroft (Leisure and Economic Development).

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Hollesley with Eyke

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Kesgrave East

One seat vacant

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Rosie and Emily win Soundwaves

Rosie and Emily in October won Soundwaves Ulimite Band Contest 2011. You can now hear on Sounds of the East Coast 4 all the finalists. Rosie Bullen and Emily Higgins are students at Framlingham College – see them on www.youtube.com/rosieemilymusic

The latest CD costs £5 – call Sophie Hargraves 07903 017838 or email suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com for this or previous including the one featuring previous winner Ed Sheeran, who has since topped album charts, and was from Fram. An omen?

Go Solo for lodgings or lodgers

A new initiative to find affordable homes for single people is looking to find more people to offer lodgings in the district, as well as anyone who is looking for a room to stay in.

Solo Housing is a registered charity that recognises how hard it is for many single people to afford to rent a home from a private landlord. At the same time, these tough economic times mean that letting out a spare bedroom and earning some extra tax free income is increasingly attractive.

A landlord information pack covering the legal and tax implications, health and safety issues is available from Solo as well as details about the support and advice it can offer.

Solo will look for a suitable lodger for you that matches your profile once it has registered your details and it will always be up to you to accept or reject a lodger.

If you want to be a lodger you can contact Suffolk Coastal's housing options team on 01394 444237, or contact Solo direct. Solo will interview you where and try to match your requirements.

Ring Solo on 0800 652 0155 if you have a room to let, or if you are looking for a room.

Prince joins tribute to wartime heroics

A large crowd at Sizewell beach that included Prince Harry were on hand in August to greet six people marking the 70th anniversary of the bravery of two brothers who fled the Nazi-occupied Netherlands by rowing across the North Sea.

"To see the condition of these highly experienced rowers when they came ashore brought home the astounding bravery and stamina of those who tried to cross the North Sea. The story of the original Engelandvaarders was almost forgotten, so it was great that a statue marking these extraordinary efforts was unveiled at Sizewell beach in 2009," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The route sailed followed that of Henri and William Peteri, who departed 70 years ago from Katwijk, north of The Hague, and arrived at Sizewell 56 hours later. For more information and how to make a donation visit

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/engelandvaarders/

Wear the White Ribbon this year

An international White Ribbon campaign against gender violence is being marked in Woodbridge on Saturday, November 26 at the Turban Centre from 10am to 2pm when you can also find out what support is in place for those facing domestic violence.

The event is organised by Coastal Action Against Abuse, the forum that brings together local organisations to offer support and which was set up by Cathy Press, the district's domestic violence coordinator, who is funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

The first white ribbon campaign was in 1991 after a group of Canadian men, outraged by the brutal mass shooting of 14 female students at the University of Montreal, called on fellow men to neither commit, condone or remain silent about violence against women.

Now the White Ribbon campaign has across the world been linked to 16 days of action to focus on eliminating gender violence, ending on December 10 which is International Human Rights Day. More information can be found at children's centres, Woodbridge library and the district's CABs.

Anyone facing domestic violence can call Cathy Press on 07966 592632 or can visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/communitysafety/ domestic/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/communitysafety/domestic/)

A year of Landguard

Looking for a Christmas present with a local difference? How about the Discover Landguard calendar 2012 which features the best 12 pictures from a competition run by the Landguard Partnership.

The overall winner was Matthew Chaplin, with his shot of the nature reserve with the Port in the background. The calendar costs £5.99 and to get a copy call 01394 675283 – all the winning photos are on www.landguardpartnership.org.uk/the_winners

Grants helping community groups

Twenty local community, voluntary and not-for-profit groups have been given a funding boost after receiving their share of £25,000 of revenue grants from the Council this year.

“It is great that despite the tough financial times we are facing we have been able to support so many of the district's local groups that are working in our communities and making such a real difference to so many aspects of the quality of the lives of so many people,” said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities.

For more information about grants visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/helpingpeople/communitygrants/councilgrants or call 01394 444626.

Joint tourism guide

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are joining forces to produce a Suffolk Coast holiday guide for 2012, promoting a wealth of fantastic places to stay, sites to visit and things to do from the Southern Broads down to Felixstowe.

Working more closely together to improve their tourism service will also reduce costs. Anyone wanting to appear in the new brochure, 75,000 copies of which will be circulated nationally in January, can call 01502 523334.

Hurry up if you want a Fit Village

The finishing tape is beginning to loom fast for any villages who want to get involved in the Fit Villages project funded by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership and run by Suffolk Sport.

Fit Villages is giving rural communities the chance to get more active with subsidised sporting and physical activity sessions in village halls, community centres and recreation grounds. Among those who have already signed up this year are Walpole, Easton, Charsfield, Butley, Grundisburgh, Westerfield, Sutton, Kelsale and Wenhaston.

Activities offered have included nordic walking, Zumba, pilates, yoga, chair-based exercise, keep fit, badminton, health walks and tai chi. The deadline for any projects to start is Friday, January 27 but if you want some in your village you must get in touch now so Suffolk Sport can identify what demand exists.

If they find enough people want to take part, they will arrange qualified instructors and book a venue for the first eight weeks with the aim of there being enough interest for them to carry on afterwards. For further information visit www.suffolksport.com/fitvillages or call Henry Tapp on 01394 444289.

Food safety advice - cook chicken livers thoroughly and watch out for E.coli

Campylobacter is the most common cause of food poisoning and is found mainly in poultry but also in red meat, unpasteurised milk and untreated water. Food safety experts are advising caterers and the public that chicken liver must be thoroughly cooked and that liver, kidneys, and other types of offal should be handled hygienically to avoid cross-contamination.

Most strains of E.coli are harmless but some can cause severe illness. These strains can be transmitted through eating, drinking or contact with undercooked minced beef and milk that is unpasteurised, hasn't been pasteurised properly, or has been contaminated after pasteurisation. It's also possible to become infected by direct contact with people or animals that are infected, or with land contaminated with animal faeces.

Restoring Sutton Heath

Over 50 people attended a meeting in October to hear what changes the Council is able to make to its future management proposals for Sutton Heath that would still meet its legal responsibilities for this nationally and internationally important site.

“Our new proposals would see more of the woodland being retained and a commitment to no more significant tree thinning at Sutton Heath for the next three years. I hope that there has been some recognition that we have listened to the genuine concerns that have been raised,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

“Equally, I hope that people understand the Council's responsibilities, and that doing nothing at Sutton Heath is not really an option. “For 20 years the Council has managed Sutton Heath with the help of Government grants given specifically to restore the heathland,” added Cllr Nunn.

From Woodbridge to Twickenham

The success of Woodbridge's first-ever fun touch-rugby competition earned some of the players the chance to turn out at Twickenham,

the home of rugby union, and won the organisers the Innovative Project Award at the Suffolk Sports Awards 2011.

Woodbridge Rugby Club, Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Sport's Sportivate campaign set up the touch-rugby tournament that attracted six pub based teams from the town to compete for the Seckford Shield.

"The fame of this excellent example of local community based sport saw seven men and three women who have been taking part in the Seckford Shield invited to be one of ten teams playing at Twickenham," said Councillor Geoff Holdcroft, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Economic Development.

Sportivate aims to make it easier for young people to take part in sport and rediscover the fun of being active and a healthy lifestyle. To find out more about Sportivate visit www.suffolksport.com or contact 01394 444652.