



Parish *Bulletin*

Spring 2007



Council sets new priorities

A Greener and safer district, plus 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.

“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 Cllr 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 Cllr 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, and 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, in December 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 Cllr Herring.



Ray Herring
Leader of the Council



David Sheepshanks, Chairman of Ipswich Town Football Club has agreed to be Chief Patron of the new Coastal Sports Alliance for its first year. See full story on page 6.

Included in this issue of Parish Bulletin

- 1 Council sets new priorities
- 1 Coastal Sports Alliance
- 2 Protecting our coastline
- 2 More orders planned to control anti-social public drinking
- 3 Working together for an even better district
- 3 Local Elections
- 4 Working together for an even better district (continued)
- 4 Other news
- 4 Safer Neighbourhoods
- 5 Tree Safety
- 5 Parish Tree Wardens
- 5 Farm art project at Easton Farm Park
- 5 Maintaining air quality - have your say
- 6 Working to promote sport
- 6 Annual Parish Liaison Meetings
- 6 Other News
- 7 Recycling News
- 7 Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework
- 8 Green issues are now a top priority at Suffolk Coastal
- 8 Morson Sports Awards

Protecting our coastline

Felixstowe

More emergency protection works, costing £300,000, to safeguard Felixstowe's sea wall and lessen the risk of flooding in the resort have been undertaken.



Sea defence works at Felixstowe

The work was necessary after heavy waves in January caused damage along the promenade with slabs of paving lifted up by the force of the sea, coping stones damaged at the top of the sea wall and a battering for some of the beach huts.

The force of the waves caused part of the sea wall to move forward by three inches along a 70 yard stretch. All of the wall and promenade that was affected was the area which had tonnes of rocks put in front of it last October. The temporary emergency work that was carried out then definitely prevented far more serious damage happening.

Dunwich

An experimental beach stabilisation project to reduce the severe cliff failures at Dunwich is underway, thanks to a partnership between Suffolk Coastal District Council, Dunwich Parish Meeting and the Environment Agency.


The low-cost, low impact, trial beach stabilisation project is creating a series of sand and shingle humps along the beach. These are intended to prevent the beach eroding thereby protecting the cliffs from the impact of the waves.

Bawdsey

Through partnership working and community spirit, urgent work has been underway over the last few weeks to provide emergency sea defences to help protect Bawdsey's East Lane.

Bawdsey has come together with neighbouring Parish Councils, Suffolk Coastal and the Environment Agency to commit finance for emergency work on a crumbling sea wall and local land owners have promised to provide labour and machinery to fill and put in place hundreds of 'gabion' bags of sand.

This latest work will provide a temporary defence for the next few months until a proposed permanent scheme can get underway in the autumn.



The next issue will be published in June 2007.

This is your publication, if you have any items you would like included that would be of interest to other Towns and Parishes please contact the Communications Team on 01394 444345/361 or email communications@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

More orders planned to control anti-social public drinking

Consultation has just been completed on the latest round of drinking bans.

The police are set to be given powers this summer to control anti-social drinking in four more parts of the district that are worried about the impact of alcohol-fueled behaviour.

People were asked to give their views on plans to introduce designation orders in parts of Framlingham, Kesgrave, Martlesham and Rushmere St Andrews.

The town and parish councils of these areas have recognised the need to give the police the authority to take action against those who are drinking in public and acting anti-socially.

Working together for an even better district

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) brings together public, private, voluntary and community organisations to work together to enhance local quality of life. It aims to ensure that the key decisions made today are sustainable and will not have a negative impact on future generations.

Here are three examples taken from the wide range of projects and initiatives being developed and supported by the LSP:

Enabling young people to make a positive contribution to our community

Through the work of its young people's co-ordinator, the LSP is improving its engagement with young people and giving them more of a voice in decisions taken which affect them. A group of young people have already come together to take on the challenge of forming a Youth Forum and one of their first challenges is to assess bids submitted for grants through the Youth Opportunity Fund and Youth Capital Fund which total over £100,000.

Facilitating the production of Parish Plans

A parish plans development coordinator is working for the LSP for a period of 18 months to identify and work with a small selection of parishes and communities to review and refine how parish and neighbourhood plans are developed. Additional funding has been identified to run a pilot project alongside five parishes to identify efficiencies in the data inputting and analysis stage of the Parish Plan.

Developing the voluntary and community sector (VCS) to deliver services

A VCS development officer is working

directly with voluntary and community groups to develop a variety of methods to help them increase their capacity. A forum event was organised recently to share information amongst voluntary and community organisations about getting more out of effective partnership working and the various resources that are available to support the VCS.

The LSP and the Suffolk Local Area Agreement (LAA)

The Suffolk Local Area Agreement has been running since 2005 and is a three year agreement between central government, Suffolk's local authorities and their partners. The LAA is structured around four blocks:

- Children and Young People
- Safer, Stronger Communities
- Adults and Healthier Communities
- Economic Development and Enterprise

A challenge for the LAA is to integrate joint working at a local level (where local solutions can be identified to local problems) with the need to make decisions on priorities across the county. The LSP has developed its engagement with the Local Area Agreement and is increasingly being seen as a key body for delivering its targets in Suffolk Coastal. There are formal links between the LAA and the LSP at Board and Block Board level, as well as less formal engagement on a number of projects across the working groups. The LSP is supporting delivery of a wide range of LAA targets and will be engaged in identifying and devising targets for future LAA agreements.

Examples of projects supported by the Suffolk Coastal LSP to directly support the targets of the LAA include:

Continued on page 4

Local Elections

Thursday, May 3 sees the local elections for 55 district councillors and over 850 town and parish councillors.

Lots of changes have been made to election procedures including:

Reducing from 21 to 18 the age that people can become a councillor - there are over 400 young people in the district who will be able to vote for first time in May 2007.

Polling hours for local elections have been extended - voting for the early bird will start at 7am and continue until 10pm on 3 May.

The introduction of new anti-fraud measures to make postal voting more secure and allowing people to register to vote as late as 18 April.

Everyone will receive a poll card - including those who have opted to vote by post.

Key dates

Monday, March 26 - nominations open for district, town and parish council elections.

Wednesday, April 4, 12 noon - nominations close for district, town and parish council elections.

Wednesday, April 18, 5pm - latest time to apply to register to vote, apply for a postal vote or to alter postal/proxy voting arrangements.

Wednesday, April 25, 5pm - latest time to apply for a proxy vote.

Thursday, May 3 - Election day, polling stations will be open from 7am to 10pm.

Friday, May 4 - the votes will be counted and the results announced for the district council elections - they will be put on our website as they happen.

Anyone wanting more information can contact Suffolk Coastal's election team on 01394 444329 or email elections@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/elections

Other News

Cheaper car parking after Council listens to the public

From April 1 it will be cheaper to park at four of Suffolk Coastal's car parks 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 in Woodbridge by the train station, the community hall and Deben Swimming Pool and The Avenue, and next to Felixstowe Leisure Centre.

Refurbishment of toilets in Ranelagh Road, Felixstowe

A total refurbishment of the existing toilet block is taking place, with new toilets and wash basins, along with tiling of the floors and walls, plus improved lighting and ventilation. The work is expected to be completed by the end of March.

Kesgrave play facilities

Nearly £50,000 of funding from the Council's Outdoor Play Space Fund, will be put towards the cost of Kesgrave Town Council's provision of play equipment, a teen shelter and a multi-sports area at Cedarwood Green.

Important news for local businesses

Many local businesses have yet to claim their right to get their rates bill reduced thanks to the small business rate relief (SBRR) scheme. The closing date for claiming for the 2006/07 financial year is September 30. Information and application forms for the valuation period April 1, 2007 to March 31, 2010 were sent, in January, to all those believed to qualify, but if anyone needs more details they can contact Suffolk Coastal's business rates team on 01394 444546/444544, or fax 01394 444247 or email businessrates@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourbusiness/businessrates/reliefs.

Continued from page 3

Reducing obesity in children

The LSP supports the MEND (Mind, Exercise, Nutrition and Diet) programme developed by Great Ormand Street and now operating in Suffolk. The programme tackles the whole issue of obesity in children aged 5-11 and involves their parents. The purpose is to reduce the child's weight in a sustainable way and have knock on benefits for the whole family.

Reducing perceptions of anti social behaviour

The LSP funded two detached youth workers to support young people in a priority area to positively engage with their community and provide alternatives to low level nuisance.

Quality of Life information events for residents.

Three quality of life events were held over last summer, at Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Leiston to offer information and opportunities about healthy lifestyles and opportunities to get involved in the local community. These will be repeated again this year.

For more information about the LSP or about any of the LSP projects mentioned above then contact:

Luke Bennett, LSP Co-ordinator - Tel 01394 444252
Email luke.bennett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Keri Mohan, Suffolk Coastal Young People Co-ordinator - Tel/Text 07795 092255
Email keri.mohan@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Sunila Osborne, Suffolk Coastal Parish Development Co-ordinator - Tel 01473 242544
Email sunila.osborne@suffolkacre.org.uk

Karen Lawson, Suffolk Coastal Voluntary & Community Sector Development Officer - Tel 01473 275195
Email karen.lawson@savo.co.uk

Or look on the website at www.sclsp.org.uk for more information including the Community Strategy, the LSP delivery Plan and Minutes of the Board meetings.



Making a difference...together

A radical new approach to policing called Safer Neighbourhoods is being adopted across the county.

Safer Neighbourhood teams, consisting of councils, community partners and volunteers working alongside police officers and police staff will be working together to tackle concerns about crime, anti-social behaviour and safety, in a way that is visible and accessible to communities.

In our district one team is already up and running at Kesgrave and at a launch on March 27 ten more teams will come on board covering the Colneis Peninsula, Felixstowe north and Felixstowe south, the Wilford Peninsula, Wickham Market rural, Woodbridge & Melton, Kesgrave, Framlingham, Saxmundham and Leiston & Aldeburgh.

For further information phone 01473 613500 or visit www.safersuffolk.org.uk



Tree safety

The strong winds in mid-January are thought to have been the most severe since 1990 and caused damage to many trees throughout the district.

Thankfully the trees on land owned by the District Council suffered only minor damage. Whilst such strong winds can affect trees in a random and unpredictable manner, it is felt that the Council's tree inspection procedures have helped to ensure that its tree stock is maintained in a good state of health and as a result damage has been kept to a minimum.

In the past year the Council's tree inspector has also carried out health checks on trees belonging to Town and Parish Councils and other public bodies. This service is available at a cost that covers the tree inspector's time and travel expenses.



Parish Tree Wardens

There are exciting times ahead for the Suffolk Coastal Tree Wardens who are considering forming themselves into a body that can become more active in organising and supporting community projects and bidding for funding and sponsorship.

The types of projects that could be promoted by the tree wardens include setting up Parish tree nurseries, encouraging the creation of community orchards with traditional varieties of fruit trees and launching a new tree sponsorship scheme.

The Council's countryside & open space team will continue to support the Tree Wardens Network by organising newsletters and meetings, assisting with the distribution of parish trees, and staging events and training days. The team is looking forward to working more closely with the tree wardens in the future.

If you don't already have a tree warden in your Town or Parish then now is a good time to nominate one.

For more information about the Tree Inspection Service or the Tree Warden Network please contact Jo Payne in the countryside and open space team at Suffolk Coastal District Council on 01394 444553 or e-mail joanna.payne@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Farm Art project at Easton Farm Park

Monthly Farm Art sessions (the fourth Saturday of each month) are being held for children, young people and all the family, and are ideal for anyone who likes making things, enjoys being outdoors and lives in or around Framlingham.

Activities include drawing, experimental art planting, casting, photography and sculpture, and are tailored to meet the skills and interest of those taking part.

The morning sessions are between 10am and 12 noon and are aimed at children aged 12 and under (an adult must accompany those under eight). The focus in the afternoon between 2pm and 4pm switches to young people aged 13



Children enjoying themselves down on the farm

and over. To book a place email nicky.corbett@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444538, or visit suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/farmart

Maintaining air quality - have your say

The Council's on-going commitment to quality of life and improved environmental management means it is now seeking views on its in-depth review of air quality across Suffolk Coastal.

"The air quality in the Suffolk Coastal district is generally very good, but there are a couple of areas that need to be monitored closely as they could exceed target levels," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Environment, natural and built.

The latest monitoring shows there are now two additional local sites that require further investigation where air quality objectives may be exceeded in the future.

The full report, together with all reports produced to date, is available on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/haveyoursay/ or can be seen at the Council's offices at Melton Hill, Woodbridge and Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe.

Comments are welcomed from residents on the report, and can be emailed by May 1, 2007 to environmental.protection@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or use the online form on the website.

Working to promote sport

The Coastal Sports Alliance has been launched to help promote and develop all types of sporting activities across the district, bringing together the enthusiasm and expertise of clubs and individuals.

The Alliance has been established, with the help of Suffolk Coastal, to bring together people from a variety of organisations with the purpose of increasing sports participation through co-ordinated delivery, hence its strapline of 'united through sport'.

By creating this Alliance, it is expected that there will be a sharing of knowledge and expertise that will help sports and clubs prosper in the future. It is also anticipated that it will make it easier for this district to get its fair share of the national funding on offer to support and promote sporting activities.

Organisations represented in the Alliance come from the whole range of those involved with sport or who recognise its importance. They include sports clubs, schools and colleges, voluntary groups, youth councils, the police, Crime and Disorder Reduction Groups, Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council and local Parish and Town Councils.

Three sub-groups for the Coastal Sports Alliance have been set up, due to the size of the district, and David Sheepshanks, Chairman of Ipswich Town Football Club, has agreed to the Chief Patron for the first year.

A website for the Alliance has also been launched, which will include a full directory, and can be found on www.coastalsportsalliance.org.uk

Anyone wanting more information on the Alliance can contact Richard Baldwin on 01394 444318 or Sarah Shinnie on 01394 444652 or email active.leisure@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Annual Parish Liaison Meetings

Taking on board feedback from parish councils that they viewed liaison meetings with Suffolk Coastal District Council in a positive light, the District Council has put in place a system that guarantees that every town and parish will have an opportunity to attend an annual liaison meeting.

During the winter the first of these annual liaison meetings took place in three different locations within the district covering parishes in the north, south west and central parts of Suffolk Coastal. At each meeting the Leader of the Council, District Councillors (with responsibility for various portfolios), Council officers, a police representative, and a Suffolk Coastal Services representative discussed with parish councillors five main topics on the agenda:

- Housing Development 2001-2021
- Local Government White Paper
- Suffolk Coastal's Green Agenda
- The work of the Local Strategic Partnerships
- Police Update

There was also a chance for Parish Councils to raise other issues of common interest and a copy of the minutes from each meeting has been sent to the relevant Parish Clerk.

Although these meetings are now a permanent annual fixture, groups of towns and parishes are reminded that they still have the opportunity to request a special meeting with the District Council if there is an issue of particular concern.

Other News

Bus passes

A letter has been sent to the Government calling for urgent action to tackle the funding problems caused by the introduction of free bus passes, which in Suffolk Coastal is costing an extra £180,000 in the coming year.

The Transport Secretary, Douglas Alexander, has been asked by Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member, Cllr Stephen Burroughes, to carry out an urgent review into the way the Government is funding the new scheme.

Suffolk Coastal offers free travel on buses at all times to people aged 60 and over, and those who are disabled. This scheme is provided as part of a Suffolkwide partnership.

Council Tax increase

Suffolk Coastal has agreed to set a Council Tax increase of seven pence a week on the average Band D house.

This is equivalent to 2.9 per cent on its share of the bill and is below the three per cent target that the Council set itself for this year.

Footway lighting

The Council has written to 39 Town and Parish Councils across the district asking for their views on whether some footway lighting in their area is still needed throughout the night.

Cllr Rae Leighton has written again to town and parish councils emphasising that this is a genuine consultation process and that public safety is of paramount importance and no changes to footway lighting will be imposed.

Town and Parish Councils have until March 31 to respond

Felixstowe decorative lighting

Work has begun on replacing 42 of the motifs sitting on the columns along the seafront.



Recycling News

Twin Bin Collection Service

In 2006, Suffolk Coastal introduced the first two phases of its new refuse and recycling service. The new wheeled-bin based service was introduced following calls from residents to make it easier to recycle and to reduce the amount of waste disposed of to landfill. The service has been very well received by residents and has increased recycling rates in the areas covered to over 50%. The next two phases of the service are planned for July and October this year.



The parishes, or parts of parishes that will be covered are:

July 2007

Bramfield, Burgh, Darsham, Falkenham, Felixstowe, Framlingham, Friston, Grundisburgh, Hasketon, Kesgrave, Knodishall, Trimley St Martin, Waldringfield and Yoxford.

October 2007

Aldringham-cum-Thorpe, Badingham, Bruisyard, Great Glemham, Kesgrave, Leiston, Melton, Middleton, Pettistree, Purdis Farm, Rendham, Rendlesham, Sweffling and Theberton.

A programme of roadshows will be held around the district for those residents who will receive the bins and further details will be sent out nearer the time. Waste Management Officers are available to attend parish meetings to answer any questions about the service.

For further information, please contact Customer Services on 01394 444050.

Compost Bins

Suffolk Coastal has linked up with the Government funded Waste Resource Action Programme (WRAP) to offer compost bins at bargain prices. A 220 litre Ecomax bin costs only £8, a 330 litre costs £18 while the modular 250 litre KOMP bins costs £20.

All prices include free delivery - call 0845 077 0757.



Help Spring clean the district

Although the annual Spring Clean Suffolk week runs from March 19 – 23, any time people in the district want to help keep their community tidy by organising a litter pick they can get support from Suffolk Coastal, including sacks, gloves and disposal of collected waste. Call Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444033 or email scsltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Suffolk Coastal Local Development Framework



Suffolk Coastal
Local Development
Framework

Core Strategy - Issues and Options

The Core Strategy Issues and Options document sets out the Council's

vision for the district to 2021 and beyond and proposes the draft objectives that a planning strategy must work towards if this vision is to materialise.

The Council wants views on the Issues and Options document in the first major stage of the public consultation process.

The document summarises the issues that have been identified so far and takes on board comments received through consultation and on-going Local Development Framework

workshops. It also makes provision for the levels of development identified for the Suffolk Coastal district in the Regional Spatial Strategy (also known as the East of England Plan).

A four-page summary leaflet outlining the issues and options is available to download from the Council's website.

People can complete or comment on as many or as few sections as they wish. The deadline for receipt of submissions is Monday, April 2, 2007. It should be noted that consultation comments cannot be treated confidentially and will be made public.

For further information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/coresstrategy/issues/

Green issues are now a top priority at Suffolk Coastal

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.

“Cabinet has confirmed that developing and promoting Green policies and improved environmental management in the district should be one of this Council’s top priorities,” said Cllr 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 Cllr Sennington.

The Task Group

This Group has met on three occasions and have:

- Received presentations from the University of East Anglia and the Energy Saving Trust (EST) on climate change and energy efficiency and from Renewable East on renewable energy supplies
- Updated the Green Purchasing Policy for consideration by Cabinet as part of the Council’s Procurement Strategy.
- Recommended a motion to Council that it sign the Nottingham Declaration and prepare an Action Plan to support work on climate change within the district.
- Considered a draft Energy Policy and Action Plan that once

approved will enable an energy audit of the Council’s operation by the EST to help us reduce our own carbon emissions followed by work on a Green Travel Plan.

Green Initiatives

Environmental Sustainability Officer

As part of the Council’s review of its Medium Term Financial Plan and to reflect the Council’s revised medium term priorities, resources have been made available to fund an Environmental Sustainability Officer to improve the Council’s performance in this area and encourage action within the community.

Suffolk CRed Partnership

The Council is an active member of the Suffolk CRed Partnership that has been successful in bidding for £112,000 to support a two-year programme of work on climate change within the county.

Greenprint Forum

The Council continues to work with the Greenprint Forum to promote environmental issues and at a meeting in January sought to have more effective engagement with the Local Strategic Partnership and pressed for the inclusion of climate change as a priority for action within a revised Community Strategy.

Suffolk Energy Action Link (SEAL)

The Council’s SEAL initiative continues to encourage residents to become more energy efficient. SEAL are currently running a solar water heating scheme and 1,500 residents of the district have benefited from condensing boiler and insulation schemes.

The Nottingham Declaration

Suffolk Coastal has 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.

At a recent ceremony the Morson Sports Awards celebrated local sporting talent

