

# COASTLINE

The Newsletter of Suffolk Coastal District Council

Issue 36, Summer 2008

## **Sold down the river?**

If you care about the future of local government and how your services are provided and the way that decisions that affect you are taken, then this is your chance to influence the future shape of your county.

Suffolk Coastal's proposals for an East Suffolk unitary council to offer locally accountable, strategically powerful services to residents has been ignored by the Boundary Committee for England (BCE).

Instead, the BCE is proposing to create just two councils to run all the services in Suffolk. A new Ipswich-based council would cover Ipswich and also take in Felixstowe, Kesgrave and many of the surrounding rural parishes, while the remainder of the district would be lumped into one big council, covering the rest of Suffolk, minus Lowestoft.

As an alternative to creating two unitaries, the BCE has offered its second preference of one massive unitary council covering all of Suffolk, but still minus Lowestoft which is set to be merged with all of Norfolk.

Pages 15 - 21 of this large print edition of Coastline gives you more details about the Review, and how you can let the BCE know what you think of their proposals.

## **James Bidwell is new Chairman**

Melton and Ufford's councillor, James Bidwell officially became the district's new first citizen after he was elected the Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council at its Annual Meeting in May.

Cllr Bidwell, a retired schoolmaster, who has lived in Melton for 36 years, said: "It is a great honour to have been elected as Chairman of the Council. I quickly came to recognise and enjoy the unique qualities of this district's environment and people which makes this part of East Suffolk such an outstanding place to live, work or visit."

## **Now Levington is the best in the east**

Levington has won the 2007/8 Calor Village of the Year title for East England in the prestigious competition and is now going forward to the national final to pick the best in England with the winner revealed in December.

Last autumn, Coastline reported that Levington had scooped the best in Suffolk after winning the Suffolk Coastal round. The competition rewards and encourages vibrant, self-sustaining communities which have made the best of local opportunities to maintain and enhance the quality of life for all residents.

## **Sharing data to stamp out fraud**

Suffolk Coastal is working with the Audit Commission on its latest anti-fraud initiative which will see the Council sharing some of its data so that it can be compared with information provided by other public bodies. It can then be used to help identify people wrongly claiming benefits.

Data matching helps identify fraudulent claims and payments, and where an immediate inconsistency is spotted, a further investigation will be started. No assumptions are made as to whether there is fraud, error or other explanation until an investigation is carried out.

For this initiative, the Council will be providing details of its staff, Housing Benefits claimants, Council Tax payers, insurance claimants, concessionary travel users, market/street trader licence holders, personal licences for the supply of alcohol holders and private hire and taxi drivers.

Personal data is very important to this Council and it is managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. For further information visit

<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/help/legal/legalprivacy.htm#nfi>  
or contact the Data Protection Officer, Siobhan Martin on 01394 383789.

## **How to contact us**

Write to  
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Visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

Fax 01394 385100  
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**Emergencies outside office hours 07771 816535**

**Planning Advice** 01394 444403  
01394 444423  
**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  
Fridays 8.45am - 4.45pm

### **Refuse and Recycling** 01394 444000

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

### **Interested in war pensions?**

The Eastern War Pensions Committee needs four new members to cover Suffolk. The closing date for applications is August 8, 2008 and to find out more call 01603 622822 or visit [www.veteransuk.info](http://www.veteransuk.info) using ref EWPC/08/01M.

### **Planning future services and needs**

This summer, the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership will ask for views on its draft Sustainable Community Strategy which sets out goals for the next 10 years. Watch out for details or visit [www.sclsp.org.uk](http://www.sclsp.org.uk)

## **Can you help rising stars succeed?**

Volunteers are being sought by the Suffolk SportsAid Foundation to back the county's top athletes and help them compete nationally and internationally. To find out more visit [www.suffolksportsaid.com](http://www.suffolksportsaid.com)

## **Framlingham's Fairtrade**

Framlingham has been presented with a Fairtrade Certificate, making it one of only 320 places in the country to have won this recognition because of the availability of Fairtrade goods, and general support in the community.

## **Expansion works under way at port**

June saw the start of the preliminary work for the major expansion of the Port of Felixstowe, recently given the formal planning go-ahead by Suffolk Coastal, which could create up to 1,500 new jobs in East Suffolk.

Phase 1 of the Felixstowe South Reconfiguration project will create an additional 730 metres of deep-water quay, dredged to 16 metres, along with seven state-of-the-art quayside cranes, meaning that the Port will be able to accommodate the largest container ships in the world.

Costain Ltd have been awarded the contract by the Felixstowe Dock and Railway Company to carry out this important expansion to the Port which will reinforce its place as this country's number one gateway to the world of trade.

The first 440 metres of quay are scheduled to be available by April 2010, with the entirety of Phase I being fully operational by September of that year.

Landguard Terminal will remain operational during the construction of Phase I, and will continue to service its existing customers.

### **Partnership earns councils £1million insurance bonus**

The latest partnership between local councils will see three East Suffolk councils making total savings of £1.3m over the next five years on their insurance premiums.

Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Babergh linked up to see if joint working would help them negotiate a better deal for their insurance costs, following their recent success with Ipswich in reducing their banking services.

“We managed to save £76,000 between the four councils on their banking costs, but that figure is clearly dwarfed by this excellent result in driving down our shared insurance bill by £1.3 million. This is yet another example of how working together is helping deliver more efficient services,” said Councillor Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

Suffolk Coastal will save an immediate £48,000 and over the five years it should mean it saves £265,000.

Among the other services that Suffolk Coastal is working with other councils to provide more efficiently are building control, audit, and legal, while among its other partners are Suffolk Coastal Services, DC Leisure, and Norfolk Property Services.

## **Big boost for affordable homes**

Local people wanting an affordable home to rent or buy had a big boost with news that the district will receive nearly £4 million from the Housing Corporation to help build 147 new homes.

A range of Council-backed proposals submitted by local housing associations have been given the thumbs-up, which would include new homes at 20 different rural locations across the district.

Most of the homes will be for rent, but 40 will be available under the home buy new build scheme (shared ownership) so more local people can get on the housing ladder.

“These successful bids had to pass the Housing Corporation’s new rules, so they are not only better designed than before but also will play their part in reducing our carbon footprint by being more energy efficient,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

The bids were made by Flagship Housing Group, Hastoe Housing Association, Orwell Housing Association, and Bedfordshire Pilgrims Housing Association, and further bids are under consideration.

## **Eating Out Guide**

The Eating Out in Suffolk Coastal 2008 guide is now available on [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/foodanddrink](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/foodanddrink) or at any of the district’s three tourist information centres.

## **Hoops of fun at Kesgrave**

Wednesday, August 13 will see the Cedarwood Green basketball court and football pitch celebrate its first birthday. There will be lots to see and do on the day, from entering into the football and basketball competitions, to having a skate on Suffolk Coastal's mobile skatepark. There will be dancemats, a BBQ and live music, plus Kesgrave Radio will also be broadcasting live from the event. The event will start at 11am and finish around 6pm. All activities are free.

## **The Bealings celebrates its new playing field**

Residents of The Bealings had extra cause to enjoy their May Bank Holiday when the John Belstead playing field was officially opened after three years of fund-raising netted £150,000 including a £10,000 grant from Suffolk Coastal.

Jill Ganzoni formally opened the playing field in memory of her brother John Belstead who had been a resident of Great Bealings for many years. Its multi-sports court can be booked on line from [www.bealings.ibooka.com](http://www.bealings.ibooka.com) or by phone to the volunteer administrator: 07925 181390.

A new permissive path was opened by local farmer Nigel Rolph across his land giving Great Bealings' residents a safe route to the village hall, playing field and primary school. The work was funded by Councillor Peter Bellfield's locality budget.

## **Play space fund backing Aldeburgh**

Much-needed new play equipment is set for Kemps Field in Aldeburgh after Suffolk Coastal granted £28,000 from its outdoor play space fund (OPSF) to the area which has been transferred by the Council to Aldeburgh Town Council.

The OPSF has paid out over £500,000 in the last five years and was introduced by Suffolk Coastal to ensure that housing developers were putting something back to help meet the recreational needs of the areas that they were working in.

“I am pleased that we have been able to work in partnership with the Town Council, which has drawn up a scheme for £43,000 worth of new equipment after consultation with children from the nearby primary school and local parents,” said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

Aldeburgh Town Council will meet the rest of the cost of the Kemps Field scheme, which will include a climbing unit, a two-seater toddler swing, a springy toy, and an octagonal shelter.

Last year 23 different projects were helped by the OPSF. Suffolk Coastal each year asks towns and parishes to identify their local needs for inclusion in the annual Outdoor Play Space Parish Strategy (OPSPS) which ensures that OPSF funds available are used in the best possible way.

For more information about OPSF or OPSPS contact Suffolk Coastal’s Jennie Catling, on Wednesdays and Thursdays on 01394 444321 or email [community&economic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:community&economic@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

## **Spring Coastline**

An apology to any residents who may have experienced a problem with the delivery of their Spring edition of Coastline. Due to a last minute loss of our booking, our normal distributors Royal Mail were unable to deliver Coastline in the usual way, which meant every copy had to be addressed.

Problems occurred with the company using the database of addresses, but lessons have been learnt, and the events that caused problems last time should never occur again.

## **SCTV wants what's on**

The local voice of young people SCTV – Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices – is offering a free listing on its website [www.sctv.org.uk](http://www.sctv.org.uk) to capture what's on around the district. Whether it is an event, activity or a concert or film listings, just send it all to [enquiries@SCTV.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@SCTV.org.uk)

“We are building up our What's On section to fill the information gap between the young people who say there's nothing to do and those people who are putting things on but aren't attracting as many people as they would like,” said Alex Stewart of SCTV.

## **Minister hears East Suffolk flooding concerns**

The Regional Minister for the East of England, Barbara Follett MP, saw first-hand in June the £10 million coastal defence improvement works that are underway at Felixstowe to protect 1,600 homes and businesses.

Ms Follett said “I was pleased to see the work being done to improve Felixstowe's flood defence. This has been made possible by Government funding and, along with the very important expansion of the port will, I hope, play a vital role in the regeneration of the resort and beyond.”

The Minister also had talks with senior councillors from Suffolk County, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils, as well as representatives of Norfolk councils and local MP John Gummer, regarding the serious concerns of the coastal communities affected by the Environment Agency's (EA) Blyth strategy and its wider implications.

“We were glad to have the opportunity to share with the Minister our relief at seeing work underway at last to protect South Felixstowe from flooding, and to secure the future of many of the resort facilities”, said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader.

“However, we cannot rest on this success, and our attention is now firmly on the apparently uncertain future of much of the East Suffolk coastline, and particularly its estuaries, which has been put firmly in the spotlight with the EA's proposals for the Blyth,” added Cllr Smith.

### **Role for communities in coast and estuary defences**

Nearly 90 local representatives attended a special conference at Southwold that aimed to help local communities play a more active part in managing the risks of future coastal and estuary flooding, and winning an improved dialogue with Government on managing and funding defences.

The conference, sponsored by Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County and Waveney Councils looked at the Environment Agency's (EA) proposals for the Blyth and their potential regional and national implications.

Town and parish councillors from around East Suffolk's estuaries were joined by councillors from the three councils, as well as John Gummer MP, along with representatives of many interested organisations.

“Coastal flooding and erosion and the provision of adequate defences are major issues for East Suffolk and its communities, especially after the EA’s ‘no active intervention’ proposals for the Blyth which could be repeated in the Alde/Ore, Deben and Orwell estuaries, or indeed on sections of the open coast.

We heard from North Norfolk Council how their experience, like ours on the Blyth, has highlighted the failure of the current assessment system to take proper account of the real costs and benefits of proposals on local areas,” said Councillor Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal’s Deputy Leader.

The conference followed the encouraging meeting with Barbara Follett, the Minister for the Eastern Region, who recognised the need to involve communities more in planning future coast and estuary defence policies.

The conference at Southwold Pier heard about what has been done around the Blyth, and how its local communities, landowners and Natural England have united to carry out repair work to the existing defences, and how this approach can be developed elsewhere.

The day included three guest speakers, and five workshop sessions which looked at the issues relating to the three East Suffolk estuaries, as well as the coastal areas.

### **Stub out litter with portable ash trays**

Personal portable ashtrays are being given away to smokers visiting pubs and clubs in Suffolk Coastal as part of a special initiative to cut down on the littering of cigarette butts around licensed premises.

“This is an excellent opportunity for smokers to play their part in stubbing out litter in our district and I am pleased that Suffolk Coastal Services are funding the initiative. I would encourage any smokers to try the free advice services that are on offer to help them kick the habit,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Coastal Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The Suffolk Coastal Nightsafe Partnership – made up of local councils, police, licensees, other agencies and local residents – are behind the initiative. Each ashtray has a clay liner and can be carried in a pocket or bag and used to extinguish and dispose of cigarettes.

Inspector Steve Gallant of Felixstowe Police said “Dropping cigarette butts may not seem like a huge problem but littering doesn’t help the image of the district and can be an annoyance for residents living near licensed venues,” said Inspector Steve Gallant of Felixstowe Police.

### **Local clean-up efforts**

Over 2,700 residents, encouraged by the annual Spring Clean and by the ‘don’t be a tosser’ campaign running on BBC Radio Suffolk, registered their litter-picking activities with the Council – up from 1,900 last year.

“I am personally extremely grateful and proud that we have such a large number of dedicated people willing to give up some of their free time to pick up the rubbish left by a thoughtless minority,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

For help in organising a litter pick, or to report fly-tipping or dropped litter, call SCS on 01394 444000. SCS will arrange clearance from public land and attempt to catch the person responsible. SCS also offers a chargeable clearance service for private landowners.

## **Green roll-out continues**

Nearly 5,000 more homes were set to get an improved recycling service from July which means paper, cans, foil, cardboard and plastic containers can be recycled every fortnight in the new blue-lidded bin.

This will be the second phased roll-out of the service this year, which by the end of October will see the total number of homes being served having doubled to 36,000, or roughly two-thirds of the district.

“Across the district, our residents have been recycling a record 45 per cent of their household waste during the last year, and those with the improved service have been hitting 54 per cent. I cannot stress how important it is that we all make the effort to get into the recycling habit because it will cost us the earth if we do not,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The latest areas to get the service are Tuddenham St Martin, Eyke, Campsea Ashe, part of Trimley St Martin, part of Saxmundham, part of Leiston, Westerfield, Stratford St Andrew, Little Glemham, Farnham, Swilland, Witnesham, part of Martlesham, Cratfield, Walpole, Huntingfield, Linstead, Ubbeston, Heveningham, Chediston, Bawdsey, Alderton, part of Hollesley, Culpho, Great Bealings, and part of Kelsale.

For more about recycling, visit

[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/recycling](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/recycling) or telephone [01394 444050](tel:01394444050).

The new service began in the week commencing July 14 when their grey lidded bin was due to be emptied, with their brown and blue-lidded bins emptied a week later.

## **The future shape of Suffolk – now have your say**

On Monday, July 7 the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) announced its draft proposals for how local councils and their services will be run in the future.

On pages 8 and 9 you can see their draft proposals mapped out, with the reaction of Suffolk Coastal's Leader to the surprise package.

On page 10 is a reminder of the East Suffolk proposal that was submitted jointly by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils and supported by Ipswich and St Edmundsbury Councils.

### **What do others think of the BCE plans?**

St Edmundsbury Borough Council Leader, Cllr John Griffiths, said: "We are extremely surprised by this recommendation which if implemented, would seem to ignore the feelings of our local residents and does not present a solution for West Suffolk. This recommendation appears to take no account of people's sense of place in their own community. We have always argued for local people making local decisions."

Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of Waveney Council said: "A whole range of options and ideas were put to the BCE by people who understand Suffolk, understand Waveney and understand how services should be delivered to these communities.

"And yet, the BCE have ignored everything we have told them to produce a messy nonsense that will only deliver confusion and which has no feel whatsoever for the natural, different areas of Suffolk and Norfolk."

Cllr Nick Webb, of Waveney: “Nobody requested this, nobody recommended it. It’s the worst of all worlds and makes a mockery of the whole process. A fudge that asks more questions than it answers.”

Forest Heath District Council Leader, Cllr Geoffrey Jaggard said:”This does not appear to be a good solution for the people in West Suffolk or for local democracy.

“We believe that a large unitary council, covering Forest Heath, St Edmundsbury, Babergh, Mid Suffolk and parts of Waveney and Suffolk Coastal, would be cumbersome and remote from people and places which is why we argued for smaller scale unitary councils, or status quo. We believe it is important for councils to be able to focus on all the different issues and identities.”

### **BCE wants to hear from you**

“Having considered the representations received during the initial stage of the review, the Committee has published its draft proposal for unitary local government in Suffolk. This report can be accessed via our web page,

[www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-structural-review](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-structural-review).

“There will now be a period of 12 weeks, during which we welcome views on its draft proposal. Representations should be submitted to the Committee by September 26 2008.

“The Committee has not finalised its proposal for a pattern of unitary local government in Suffolk. In the light of representations received, the Committee will review its draft proposal and consider whether it should be altered before submitting final advice to the Secretary of State.”

Archie Gall, Director of BCE

## **How to have your say**

You can express your views on the BCE proposals by using the online form at [www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-structural-review](http://www.electoralcommission.org.uk/boundary-reviews/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-structural-review) or by directly writing to:

Review Manager (Norfolk/Suffolk Review)

The Boundary Committee for England

Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street

London SW1P 2HW

Tel: 020 7271 0512 Fax: 020 7271 0505

Email: [reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk)

## **What a carve up – Leader slams reorganisation proposals**

Suffolk Coastal's Leader has reacted angrily to this month's announcement by the Boundary Committee of England (BCE) for the proposed reorganisation of Suffolk, describing the process to date as a farce.

After a whirlwind four months of looking at how local councils in Suffolk could be reorganised, the BCE has proposed merging Ipswich with Felixstowe and Kesgrave, and leaving the rest of the county minus Lowestoft run by one giant council trying to serve 400,000 people.

“This is a farcical situation whereby the BCE have ignored the solutions offered to them and are instead looking to impose something which has no understanding of the communities of Suffolk,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

“In a very short time period, a range of interesting proposals for the future were offered, yet the BCE have come up with a solution for Ipswich based on a couple of maverick proposals and paired it with an option that nobody requested, with an alternative that again nobody wanted.

“This was a golden opportunity to provide better, more efficient services that engaged with and served local communities, but it has been squandered with a carve-up that has butchered our county and our districts. One option is unworkable while we have been given an alternative which is unthinkable. I note that the BCE’s motto is that ‘democracy counts’. Well it has not lived up to that claim so far but I can only hope for all our sakes that it will now listen to the voice of our communities,” added Cllr Herring.

The BCE is now requesting that responses be made on the proposals by September 26 by filling in an online form, or in writing. The BCE said it reached its draft proposals based on five criteria – affordability, value for money services, neighbourhood empowerment and engagement, broad cross section of support, and strategic leadership.

“Putting aside the annexation of Felixstowe, Kesgrave and 19 of our parishes for a moment, I find it impossible to fathom how the rest of Suffolk Coastal can best be served by becoming part of a massive council with 400,000 people.

“Looking at the criteria, I cannot see how creating one geographically massive new council will be locally accountable, while to date there has been absolutely no public support for such a hare-brained idea.

“Our residents are used to receiving good, value for money services, and I honestly cannot see how creating one of the country’s biggest councils will continue to deliver that success,” added Cllr Herring.

Four of the eight councils, including Suffolk Coastal, in Suffolk had backed proposals for three unitaries to be created, offering locally accountable, strategically powerful new councils, in East, West and Ipswich, while two others had backed at least an East/West split to take account of the differing challenges and needs of the communities of Suffolk.

“At the root of this review was the Government’s desire to achieve unitary status for Ipswich, but they have done it in a way that ignores logic and community ties. Our proposal would have seen Felixstowe in the same council as Lowestoft which made far more sense as they both face similar coastal defence and regeneration challenges. Now we have the ridiculous prospect of three different councils managing our county’s coastal defences.

“The communities that make up Felixstowe now face the threat of becoming part of an aspiring city that needs to expand to achieve its goals, and with urban and social issues that are not those of a resort town.

“I am equally concerned about our communities between Felixstowe and Ipswich who have made it crystal clear that they do not want to be seen as some kind of Outer Ipswich. Their voice has been ignored so far, and what chance would they have to protect their largely rural lifestyles in a new unitary that will inevitably have urban regeneration as its biggest goal?

“The next part of the process is for the public and interested parties to have their say on the proposed options, and I would strongly urge everyone to put forward their views. I can only hope that they will pay more attention to our communities than they have to their elected representatives,” added Cllr Herring.

The proposed unitary Ipswich, would include Felixstowe and Kesgrave and these other parishes of Suffolk Coastal Brightwell, Martlesham, Bucklesham, Nacton, Falkenham, Newbourne, Playford, Foxhall, Purdis Farm, Great Bealings, Rushmere St Andrew, Hemley, Stratton Hall, Trimley St Martin, Kirton, Trimley St Mary, Levington, Waldringfield, and Little Bealings, as well as 19 parishes of Babergh, and seven in Mid Suffolk.

Responses to the draft proposals can be made by filling in an online form at [www.boundarycommittee.org.uk](http://www.boundarycommittee.org.uk) or email [reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk](mailto:reviews@boundarycommittee.org.uk)

or in writing to Review Manager (Norfolk and Suffolk Review), The Boundary Committee for England, Trevelyan House, Great Peter Street, London SW1P 2HW. The period for responses closes on September 26.

### **Making the case for an East Suffolk unitary council**

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney joined up in March to call on the Boundary Committee for England (BCE) to create an East Suffolk unitary council as one of three unitary councils in Suffolk.

East Suffolk was the preferred unitary option for this district because

- it is big enough to be economic and efficient yet still small enough to relate to and work effectively with its local communities
- it will enable local communities to influence decisions and feel part of the decisions that affect their lives
- it is of a scale that can represent effectively the interests of East Suffolk at regional and national level
- it is big enough to work effectively with business interests at a local and national level

It was argued that each of the three suggested unitary authorities (East, West and Ipswich on its existing boundaries) can achieve the factors above to meet local needs while having sufficient influence to argue for strategic interests and to engage on a regional and national level on issues that affect our communities' quality of life.

It was also pointed out that each of these three areas have distinct identities and face specific local challenges and issues both now and in the future. The rules of the Review are that calling for no change to the current system is not an option - the BCE could only consider concepts that propose new unitary councils.

The submission to the BCE made it clear that the Councils did not support a Yartoft unitary that combines Great Yarmouth with Lowestoft and Waveney as this does not reflect communities of interest, or best meet their future needs.

There was also no support for one unitary for the whole of Suffolk as one giant council for the whole county would be a large remote organisation unable to effectively engage with the various and diverse needs of the local communities with a population of nearly 700,000 and an area of 952,247 acres.

### **The home composting green army**

Join Suffolk Coastal's massive home composting green army, which is already showing the way to the rest of the county with over 14,000 subsidised home compost bins having been bought.

Home compost bins at subsidised prices to residents are available. A 220 litre Compost Converter costs £17, a 330 litre Compost Converter is £20, and a 250 litre modular KOMP bin costs £40. All prices include free delivery; they can be ordered by calling 0845 077 0757.

### **Leiston impact**

Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Coastal Services joined up with the police and other partners to carry out a four-hour blitz in Leiston in June to help clean up the town and tackle some of its community safety issues.

A fixed penalty notice was issued for littering, paths were cleared of dog mess, two cases of fly-tipping were also tackled along with 27 incidents of graffiti. On the day, two untaxed vehicles were found, and 17 vehicles were issued with delayed prohibitions by the Vehicle and Operator Service Agency.

## **Last orders set to be called on anti-social drinking**

The police will have additional powers this summer to control anti-social drinking in Wickham Market, Saxmundham and Kelsale-cum-Carlton after Suffolk Coastal gave the go-ahead in June.

“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,” said Councillor Sherrie Green, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

“Similar restrictions in Felixstowe, Leiston, Woodbridge, Framlingham, Kesgrave, Martlesham and Rushmere St Andrew have helped the police improve the quality of life for those who live there. As well as backing the introduction of three new orders, we are changing the ones in Felixstowe after listening to the public, the town council and the police,” added Cllr Green.

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

## **Green card rewards young people**

A Green Card reward scheme has been launched in Suffolk Coastal as part of the Lets Get A Life campaign tackling anti-social behaviour through engaging with young people.

The card will be issued to young people who commit time and effort in a way that positively impacts on anti-social behaviour and will act as a reward scheme to recognise and reward active participation or personal achievement.

This could be achievements within the community - perhaps by getting involved in projects such as litter picks, clearing waste ground or tidying areas, cleaning graffiti, art projects or Neighbourhood Watch schemes - or by reaching personal targets and goals which have been set as part of a development programme to encourage socially responsible behaviour.

Each Green Card has spaces for ten Lets Get A Life stamps, which will be given as a reward for achievement, and when full the cardholder can enter a monthly draw to win £50 of vouchers, courtesy of Suffolk Coastal's Community Safety Partnership.

The Green Card scheme will involve schools and youth groups, as well as Safer Neighbourhood Teams and Police Education Officers. Among those already signed up, Kesgrave High School, Rochford House in Woodbridge, the CYDS project in Leiston and Level 2 in Felixstowe. For more details visit the Lets Get A Life campaign website at [www.letsgetalife.co.uk](http://www.letsgetalife.co.uk)

### **Retained fire fighters wanted**

Suffolk Fire and Rescue Service is currently looking to recruit people for its stations at Saxmundham, Orford, Aldeburgh, and Framlingham, which are all crewed by retained fire fighters.

The retained crews attend a variety of incidents, from fire in domestic or commercial premises, road traffic collisions, rescues, serious flooding, and dealing with hazardous chemicals.

Assistant Divisional Officer Gary Clark wants to hear from anyone who lives or works in any of the four areas who would like to join the fire fighting team. Applicants should be over 18 and in good health. There is no height requirement or upper age limit.

“We need people who can be committed to respond to incidents at any time of day or night, and who have employers who are willing to release them at a moment’s notice. We do not expect anyone to provide 24/7 cover and we aim to be flexible to allow people to combine the role with their normal lives,” said ADO Gary Clark.

Initial training involves a seven day course, with two further week-long courses during the next two years, plus attendance on a two-hour weekly training session every Monday night at 7pm.

In return, retained fire fighters get £2,719 per annum, plus £15.97 for every time they respond to an incident, and £12.41 per hour. There is also compensation for loss of earnings for attending training courses. Anyone interested in finding out more about how they can help keep their local community safe can call 01473 260588 or visit their local retained fire station between 7pm and 9pm on Mondays.

### **Panel recommended increase in councillors’ allowances**

Following recommendations from an experienced and independent panel, Suffolk Coastal agreed to increase the allowances payable to councillors to take account of their additional responsibilities and bring them closer into line with other similar councils.

“This comprehensive review of the work done by our councillors, and the allowances they receive in return, recognises the increasing demands on councillors’ time, particularly the senior members,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

The panel, made up of three experienced people completely independent of the Council, concluded that the old scheme had significantly fallen behind most other councils.

Raising the Suffolk Coastal basic allowance to £4,000 will, according to the Panel, only just catch up with the then national average.

When it last reported in 2003 the Council decided that its finances were such that it could not afford to properly reward the efforts of councillors at that time.

### **Beach hut for sale?**

If you are interested in buying or selling a beach hut in Felixstowe contact Jane Allitt on 01394 273870 or email [jane.allitt@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:jane.allitt@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) for information about Suffolk Coastal's list of huts for sale.

### **Witnesham vote**

Voters in Witnesham will be going to the polls on July 31 to elect a successor to Kate Waddell. The two candidates are Andrew Houseley (Liberal Democrat) and Steven Hudson (Conservative). A by-election for Woodbridge Riverside has yet to be set.

### **Spa's Parlour open**

Felixstowe's Spa Pavilion's new-look alfresco style eatery, The Parlour, offers two separate seating areas with continental style coffees, a range of snacks, light-bites, Carte D'Or Ice-Creams, plus a selection of beers, wines and spirits.

## **Family fun day for all at Yoxford**

There was a good turn out to the Family Fun Day during the Easter holidays run by the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) at Yoxford's primary school and village hall.

Over 30 different stands were on offer for visitors of all ages, as well as a host of other activities and attractions particularly for young people, with free admission and most of the activities costing nothing as well.

“This is the third year that the LSP has held special events aimed at helping local people get more out of life, with an excellent mixture of fun activities and useful information on offer on the day, and local groups involved and promoting themselves,” said Councillor Ray Herring, Chairman of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

## **Charity efforts see £1,500 raised for Cancer Research**

Thanks to the efforts of those working at Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill offices, a bumper cheque of £1,500 is set to be made out to Cancer Research UK after the latest annual charity fundraising day.

A whole range of money-earning activities were put on by Suffolk Coastal's Sports and Social Club in June and it has helped bring their total donations to charity to a staggering £28,000 since 1994.

“This was another tremendous team effort from the many people who gave up their own time to put in place all the fund-raising activities that succeeded in gaining £1,500 of donations. Given that we have less than 300 people working at our Melton Hill offices, this was some achievement and once again shows what a great bunch of people we have serving our communities,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

### **LDF Task Group meetings in public**

After receiving over 2,000 comments, Suffolk Coastal's Local Development Framework Task Group meeting is holding its next two meetings in larger venues to try and meet the public demand to hear its discussions.

The Housing Options for the East of Ipswich will be discussed on Monday, July 28 at Woodbridge Community Hall, while the Housing Options for around Felixstowe and the Trimleys will be the subject of its Monday, August 4 meeting at the Hotel Elizabeth Orwell.

Both meetings will begin at 9.30am, and the format will mirror that which has proved successful at Development Control meetings, whereby there will be opportunities for views to be heard from the floor. The public speaking will be limited to those representing town and parish councils, members of the public speaking on behalf of local groups, and agents acting for landowners.

Visit the full list of comments which stretch over 1,000 pages on [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/corestrategy/furtherissues/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/review/corestrategy/furtherissues/)

### **Summer activities 2008**

Visit [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/summer/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/summer/) or pick up a copy of the Council's guide to what is happening for 6-15 years olds in Suffolk Coastal.

It includes the summer playscheme which is visiting Kirton, Otley, Aldeburgh, Peasenhall, Kesgrave, Saxmundham, Rendlesham, Felixstowe, Wickham Market, and Leiston throughout August, fishing sessions at Swilland, football training at 10 venues across the district, the mobile skate park's visits to Felixstowe, Kesgrave, Rendlesham and Woodbridge, and dance sessions at eight venues.

## **Coastal Potato**

Do you get bored in the holidays? Think there is there nothing to do where you live? Well think again and log on to [www.coastalpotato.co.uk](http://www.coastalpotato.co.uk) to find out what is going on in your district this summer. You could even win a free place on any of the Suffolk Coastal District Council organised activities.

## **Water load of fun lined up**

Felixstowe Leisure Centre is offering young swimmers the chance to be dragged along the pool by a sea scooter, or racing against a jet-ski, or walking the plank, or padding a canoe, or swimming like a dolphin.

All this and much more is lined up on Monday August 25 at 4pm to 5.30pm. For full details, pop into the Leisure Centre or call 01394 670411 and ask what else is on offer during the holidays.

## **Fun for all at Felixstowe**

Felixstowe is home again to a free one-day event promoting and celebrating alternative sports, beach activities and healthy living, with this year's Xtremefest being held at Brackenbury Fort on Sunday, July 27 from 10am to 5pm.

The day, sponsored by SkiSurf, will be packed with activities and attractions for people of all ages and promises to be a treat for all the family. Among the things on offer will be a skateboard half-pipe competition sponsored by EdgeRiders, a display from M-A-D mountain bike team, a synthetic ice rink, a climbing wall, Laser Quest, Human Gyroscope, a rodeo surfboard, a bungee run and a music stage with live local young bands and DJs from the Soundwaves project.

Riding the real waves, will be the UK Windsurfing Association performing slalom racing, tricks and wave riders with national racers all competing for Xtremefest racing honours.

Alton Water Sports Centre will also be providing sailing for the spectators, while there also refreshments and stalls with a mix of spectator sports and 'try it' sessions.

The event has been organised by Suffolk Coastal in partnership with UK Windsurfing Association, RYA Onboard, Keith Atkinson (British Windsurfing Champion), Alton Water Sports Centre and Felixstowe TV.

For more information contact 07775 586 545, or 01394 444652, or email [active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or visit [www.xtremefest.org.uk](http://www.xtremefest.org.uk)

### **Sign up for Operation Camouflage**

If your biggest mission of the holidays is to avoid being bored, then Suffolk Coastal and Rock Barracks Army base may have the answer with their Operation Camouflage being held from Monday, July 28 to Friday, August 1.

For only £25 for the whole week, young people aged eight to 16 can sign for a variety of exciting and different activities and challenges as part of a team. From 9.30am to 4.30pm every day, the lucky recruits will have the chance to tackle the base's assault course, have a go on the firing range with water pistols, learn some bush craft skills, scale a climbing wall, or some of the more routine activities like football, archery, rounders, art and streetdance. Places are going fast so call 01394 444652.

## **Capturing the ebb and flow of life**

On Saturday, July 19, the Ebb and Flow project was due to culminate in a free day-long FlowFest celebration at Snape Maltings but its achievements will be around for people to enjoy long after that.

“The Ebb and Flow project was set up to explore the rich history of life along the Rivers Alde and Ore and has involved all sections of the local community in examining different aspects of the changing river landscape”, said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

Two hundred children from eight schools were involved, as well as over 40 adult volunteers. An oral history of the area has been recorded with 24 residents contributing their memories of the river, some of which can be heard at two special listening posts at Orford Quay and along the Sailors Path, which is also home to a temporary series of sculptures by ceramicist Jonathan Keep with help from many of the local school children.

The five and a half mile long Sailors Path, which runs from the centre of Snape to the beach at Aldeburgh, is one of five walks that are featured in a new 28-page Ebb and Flow River Heritages Walks booklet full of photographs by Nick Sinclair, helpful advice and history, available for £2.99 from Suffolk Coastal’s Tourist Information Centres at Aldeburgh, Felixstowe or Woodbridge or most good local bookshops.

“The Ebb and Flow project has proved to a marvellous success and I would like to thank everyone involved, especially all the children and volunteers who have given up their time and skills. In return I think they will have learned something new about the fascinating history of the area which has been captured so today’s and future generations can appreciate it,” added Cllr Neale.

The project has been a partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Coast and Heaths, who both helped fund it with further backing from the Heritage Lottery Fund, the Sustainable Development Fund, Aldeburgh and District Local History Society, and Alde and Ore Association.

More information about the Ebb and Flow project can be found on [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/ebbandflow](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/arts/ebbandflow)

## **Harvest of talent**

With the Latitude and Glastonbury festivals still fresh in everyone's minds, the best young sounds from the district are embarking on a special tour this summer.

Soundwaves is the music project for young people in the Suffolk Coastal area.

A rich and varied crop of artistic work was on show at Easter when the year-long Art Farming project at Easton Farm Park showcased the work of ten budding young artists, aged from seven to 17, who had attending a monthly Saturday session.

“Art Farming has been a great opportunity to learn new skills and push ideas, and has seen the youngsters working with Bryony Graham and Suzy Berry.” said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Countryside.

## **Young bands on tour**

With the Latitude and Glastonbury festivals still fresh in everyone's minds, the best young sounds from the district are embarking on a special tour this summer.

Soundwaves is the music project for young people in the Suffolk Coastal area.

Their summer tour '08 will be visiting:

- Felixstowe's Xtremefest on Sunday, July 27 with DJs from 10am, bands from 2pm-5pm
- the Skate Jam at Leiston Skate Park on Saturday August 16 from 2pm to 6pm
- Woodbridge Skate Jam on Saturday, August 30 from 2pm to 6pm

Bands that are lined up to take part are Hey Zuuz, The Fuzz, White Water, Non-stop Movement, The Banter, Clay, Containz Nutz, and many more, with Cheeky Cheeky and the Nosebleeds and a Japanese Band called Unshin also performing at Xtremefest.

Soundwaves have reserved live slots for any new bands that join Soundwaves. To find out more contact Soundwaves on 07984 144 598 or email [suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com](mailto:suffolksoundwaves@hotmail.com) or visit [myspace.com/suffolksoundwavesmusic](http://myspace.com/suffolksoundwavesmusic)

### **Going solar to cut your fuel bills**

With soaring energy bills, there can be no better time to have solar panels installed to supply your home with free hot water, saving you money and reducing your carbon footprint at the same time.

Residents in Wenhaston have been getting the solar bug, after their village signed the pledge to reduce their community's carbon footprint, with help from Suffolk Coastal, who arranged the contract for 10 homes to get solar powered at a best value rate.

Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk Energy Advice Link would like to hear from any community that would like to join up to install solar panel hot water systems in their homes. Call free on 0800 0288 938 or email [seal@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:seal@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

You can also call the above number if you want help and advice on getting your own home fitted with a high quality system, guaranteeing a value for money way to have hot water. The cost is likely to be between £3,500 and £4,000.

The East of England Development Agency is offering communities between £5,000 and £200,000 for capital assets to cut their carbon emissions, such as renewable or sustainable energy solutions, reducing waste or water usage, or cutting carbon from transport. In total, EEDA has £2.5 million set aside between now and 2011 – to find out more visit [www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk/](http://www.cutyourcarbon.org.uk/)

The Cut your Carbon website is full of useful information to help communities to be Greener, with a community carbon footprint calculator groups can measure their carbon emissions and get recommendations for energy saving actions.

To check your own individual carbon footprint visit <http://actonco2.direct.gov.uk/index.html>. To make the best use of this, it helps if you know how much you are spending on fuel in your home and in your car.

### **Thumbs up for CarShare**

Nearly 1,100 people are now registered members of SuffolkCarShare.com the countywide scheme launched to help give people the chance to seek or offer lifts online via the special website.

As well as playing a big part in helping to reduce the county's carbon footprint, it is estimated that the 1,084 members are currently saving an average £790.86 each per year.

Car sharing can be particularly helpful for people in rural areas with limited public transport or community transport services.

Registration is free and all you need to provide is a valid email address, your required journey and whether you are a driver or seeking a lift.

No personal information is released and all sharing arrangements are voluntary - and you decide how to share out the costs of the journey.

### **Tackling plastic bags**

The Council has set an ambitious goal of striving to make Suffolk Coastal a plastic bag free district as soon as possible, and will continue to work with towns and parish councils, local businesses and the public.

“There are already some commendable initiatives underway, supported either directly or indirectly by this Council, and we have agreed a deadline of the next two years to deliver real progress on ridding our district of plastic bags. However, the reality is that it is probably only the Government that can make the big difference,” said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

In Saxmundham, local businesses are pulling above their weight by encouraging customers to use linen, hemp, jute, paper and even recycled wallpaper bags instead of plastic. BOS (Businesses of Saxmundham) are working on the production of a generic non-plastic bag which would be available from every retailer with the suggested logo ‘Sacks for Sax’ - look out for it!

“This Council is also doing its bit. For example, the 5,000 homes who receive an addressed copy of this magazine will now get it in an envelope, rather than polybagged. We are also looking to alternatives to plastic sacks for those homes that do not yet have a wheelie bin for their household rubbish,” added Cllr Nunn.