

Key Facts

2013/14

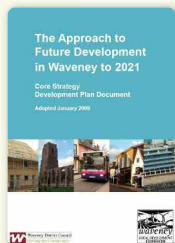
Update on the Waveney District. Published December 2014



Waveney Local Development Framework Progress

The Local Development Framework is the local plan for the Waveney district, setting out how the area should be developed. The framework is made up of a number of local planning documents.

Adopted Development Plan Documents



The approach to future development in Waveney to 2021



Policies to help make decisions on planning applications



Sites for future development

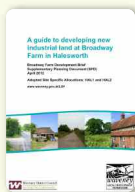


Lowestoft Lake Loothing and Outer Harbour Area Action Plan

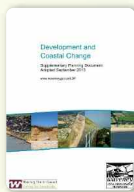
Adopted Supplementary Planning Documents



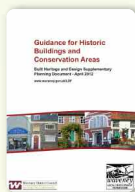
Affordable housing



Developing industrial land at Broadway Farm in Halesworth



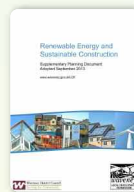
Development and coastal change



Guidance for historic buildings and conservation areas



Open Space provision and developer contributions



Renewable energy and sustainable construction



Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood and Kirkley Waterfront

How to get involved in local planning

A revised 'Statement of Community Involvement' was published in September 2014. This sets out how and when people can have their say on planning policies and planning applications. To sign up to receive future updates from the Planning Policy and Delivery Team, visit www.consult.waveney.gov.uk.



Town Update

Lowestoft (+ Carlton Colville & Oulton)

Population: 69,497
New homes: 106
New employment floorspace: 1,242m²
Town centre units in use: 81%



Beccles with Worlingham

Population: 13,868
New homes: 16
New employment floorspace: 796m²
Town centre units in use: 95%



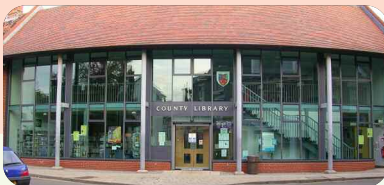
Bungay

Population: 5,127
New homes: 1
New employment floorspace: 287m²
Town centre units in use: 93%



Halesworth

Population: 4,726
New homes: 5
New employment floorspace: 0m²
Town centre units in use: 95%



Southwold with Reydon

Population: 3,680
New homes: 21
New employment floorspace: 70m²
Town centre units in use: 93%



Environment

Previously developed land
67% of new housing (127 of 189) and 74% of new employment floorspace (2,954m² of 3,995m²) was built on previously developed land.

Greenfield land
70% of housing commitments are on greenfield land (sites with planning permission as of 31 March 2014).

The figure will improve in future years as previously developed land within the Area Action Plan area gains planning consent.

Grand Designs home of the year
Long Farm in Reydon, a new build replacement dwelling won the Grand Designs 'Home of the Year' award and achieves Level 4 of the Code for Sustainable Homes.

Renewable energy - Electricity
Waveney has approximately 61.5GWh of installed renewable energy. This equates to 29% of the 215GWh target set by Policy DM03 (Low Carbon and Renewable Energy). A further 61GWh has the benefit of planning permission but has not yet been constructed.

Flood risk
No planning applications have been granted against the advice of the Environment Agency on flood risk grounds (Policy CS03 'Flooding and Coastal Erosion').

Housing density
New developments of 10 or more dwellings have achieved an average density of 35 dwellings per hectare. This is in line with Policy DM16 'Housing Density' to achieve a minimum density of 30 dpha across the District. Two redevelopment sites in Lowestoft achieved 58 and 70 dwellings per hectare.

FOCUS ON...

Flood risk and coast management

A number of flood defence options are being considered for the long term protection of Lowestoft from future flooding events and coastal erosion. The Lowestoft Flood Risk and Coast Management Strategy considers the feasibility and benefits of improved sea wall defences and tidal gate at the Bascule Bridge. £6.8 million has been allocated towards construction costs by the Government for the period 2015-2021, plus an additional £2.6 million has been allocated by the Regional Flood and Coastal Committee. Further funding towards the project development will be available next year subject to Environment Agency project approval.



Data sourced from Waveney District Council except Environment Agency and WDC: Flood risk

Economy

Employment land developed
3,995m² of B1 'offices', B2 'general industrial' and B8 'storage or distribution' was completed during 2013/14. However, 4,574m² of B1-B8 floorspace was lost to other uses.

Available employment land
There are 92 hectares of land available for employment development. This rises to 98 hectares if taking into account vacant sites within existing employment areas.

Shops in town centres
The percentage of A1 'shop' uses in Lowestoft and the Market Towns is 50.6%, a decrease of 1% (9 units) from last year.

Income to house price ratio
The difference between house prices and income has decreased this year (2013) to a ratio of 6.44:1, the lowest rate since 2009.

Wages
The average full-time annual wage in Waveney has increased by approximately £800 since last year to £23,424 (Apr 2013).

Vacant town centre units
Lowestoft main and core shopping streets have a vacancy rate of 18.7%. Southwold has seen the biggest increase in vacancy rates at 7.1%. Beccles, Bungay & Halesworth have vacancy rates between 4.3% and 6.9%.

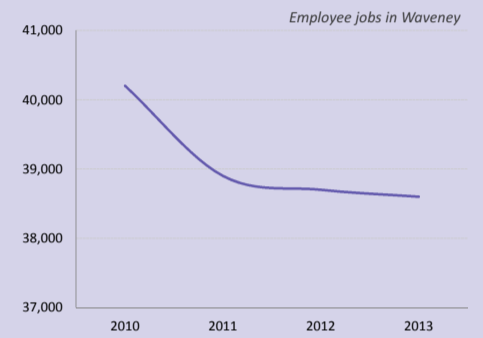
FOCUS ON...

Employee jobs

In 2001 there were 40,300 employee based jobs in Waveney. As of 2013 there are only 38,600 representing a fall in employee jobs of 1,700 (excluding agricultural jobs and those self-employed).

There is sufficient employment land available (98 hectares) to deliver the required levels of jobs. Take up of available employment land is still small, and there has been a net loss of employment premises development in this reporting year.

The large untapped supply of employment land may explain the lack of jobs growth. The recent recession may be partly to blame for the lack of take up. However, viability challenges remain in developing employment land in the short term, particularly large unserviced greenfield sites.



Data sourced from Waveney District Council except Communities and Local Government: House price to income ratio. Office for National Statistics: Wages. NOMIS: Jobs

Housing

Housing delivery
167 new homes have been delivered this year. This is below the target of 290 per annum, however the historic delivery rate and predicted delivery average over the plan period is still above the Core Strategy requirement of 6,960 dwellings by 294 units.



Re-use of vacant dwellings
Grant funding has been used to bring six private vacant dwellings back into use. Each property will be solely for rent by nominated tenants and benefit from capped rent for a period of 5 years.

Affordable housing
68 new affordable homes have been completed this year. This is 41% of the total number of homes delivered this year.

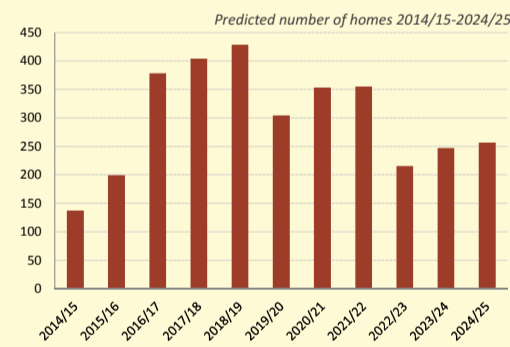
Housing types
73% of new dwellings have two or three bedrooms. 13% have one bedroom, and 14% have four bedrooms or more. The requirement of Policy DM17 'Housing Type and Mix' to shift towards the provision of smaller dwellings (40% one or two bedrooms) has been met, achieving a total of 51% of all completions.

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Land available for housing

To assist in identifying a supply of land available for housing, the Council produces a 'Strategic Housing Land Availability Assessment'.

The 2014 assessment has identified land for a total of 3,276 new homes which are likely to be delivered over the period 1st April 2014 to 31st March 2025. With delivery of 3,978 new homes in the period 2001 to 2014, a total of 7,254 new homes are expected to be delivered between 2001 and 2025.



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5-year supply of housing land

The statement of a 5-year supply of housing land covers the period 1st April 2015 to 31st March 2020.

The statement identifies 1,713 new homes to be delivered in the 5 year period which includes a 5% buffer as required by the National Planning Policy Framework. This is 217 units above the 5 year supply requirement.

Data sourced from Waveney District Council

Society

GCSE results

47.2% of year 11 pupils gained 5 or more A* - C grades including English and Maths (academic year 2012-13), compared to 59.7% for the East of England.

Childhood obesity

The percentage of children aged 10 to 11 who are obese has improved from 18.7% in 2012 to 17.6% in 2013; a 1.1% improvement compared to the Suffolk county change of only 0.3%.

Physical activity

21% of the Waveney population participates in three 30 minute physical activity sessions per week, compared to 23.4% for Suffolk county. Forest Heath has the most participation at 27.4% and Ipswich the lowest at 18%.

Crime

Recorded crime and anti-social behaviour incidents have decreased significantly since 2010. In 2013, there were 808 fewer recorded crimes than in 2012 and 752 fewer anti-social behaviour incidents.

Lowestoft Rising

Lowestoft Rising was formed in October 2013 and is an integrated approach to dealing with the causes of Lowestoft's social challenges, improving the quality of life for everybody growing up, living in and visiting Lowestoft. Priority areas include the re-design of drug and alcohol and mental health services and raising educational attainment.

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Health and community facilities

Two new health centres bring modern purpose-built GP facilities to the centre of Kirkley (SSP5) in south Lowestoft and the communities of Reydon and Southwold (SOU2).

On-site works are progressing to prepare land at Wangford Road Reydon to provide additional playing fields (SOU3).



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School closures

Policy DM26 'Re-Use of Vacant School Buildings and Playing Fields' aims to retain vacant school buildings and playing fields for community benefit. Of the 9 sites scheduled to close as part of Suffolk County Council's Schools Organisation Review, three are still in use and provide additional space for the retained schools.

Former Lothingland Middle School: Refurbished and is now 'Lound Campus', a satellite site for Lowestoft College.

Former Halesworth Middle School: Suffolk County Council demolished the buildings (retaining the North Suffolk Skills Academy and Apollo Youth Group) and the site is now run by Halesworth Campus Limited. Drainage works will be carried out in 2015 to improve the playing fields.

Former Roman Hill Primary School: Redeveloped as an 80 bed care home and is scheduled to open late 2014.

Former Worlingham Primary School: Worlingham Parish Council and the local community are interested in developing the site for community use.



Travel

Traffic movement in Lowestoft

Where traffic movement continues to be monitored there has been a small increase in volumes at Carlton Colville and Saltwater Way and a small decrease at the Lowestoft Bascule Bridge (north bound).

Location of new homes

Since 2001, 96% of all new residential development has taken place in Lowestoft, the Market Towns and larger villages. The proportion of development in Lowestoft will increase as site specific allocations are developed particularly within the Area Action Plan area.

Access to facilities

Several allocations to provide new/improved facilities have made progress to secure funding or planning permission, including a new community centre in Bungay, healthy living centre in Reydon, health centre in Kirkley and additional playing fields in Reydon.

FOCUS ON...

Travel to work

Waveney residents travel on average 10.3 miles to work. Over 40% of journeys to work are less than 5km (3.1 miles).

The percentage of Waveney residents walking or cycling to work is 18%.

The percentage of Waveney residents remaining in the district for work fell from 78% in 2001 to 76% in 2011. Residents travelling to work in Great Yarmouth is up by 1.2%; the amount of people working elsewhere in Norfolk is up by 1.6% and Waveney residents travelling to work elsewhere in Suffolk is up by 0.4%.

Data sourced from Waveney District Council except **ONS, Census 2011: Travel to work**
Suffolk County Council and Highways Agency: Traffic movement

Find out more



Scan this QR code with your smartphone to find out more
or visit www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF



This leaflet provides a summary of information published in the Council's Annual Monitoring Report. The full report, containing data from a wide range of indicators is available online at www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF or to inspect at your local Council office or library. If you wish to purchase a copy (price £8.50 including p&p), contact us using one of the methods below.

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This leaflet contains information on the latest available data for the monitoring period 2013/2014. Whilst every effort is made to ensure the accuracy of information, it cannot be guaranteed free from errors.