



coastline

Spring 2016

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Suffolk Coastal District Council's newsletter
www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Investing in **the future**

Suffolk Coastal is committed to investing in building a strong and vibrant economy. As well as finding innovative ways of making savings, we need to make sure that we protect frontline services, provide more affordable homes and support economic development.

In order to continue to provide high quality services, we are slightly increasing our portion of the Council Tax bill for this coming year (2016/17) by just under 2 per cent (1.99% to be exact).

This is disappointing, as we have kept Council Tax frozen at 2010 levels, but needs to be put into context – the increase will be less than £3 (or about 25p a month) for a Band D property, with their Council Tax rising from £149.40 to £152.37 a year.

“The reality is that our funding from central Government has been cut by 40 per cent in the last five years. In the same period Suffolk Coastal also froze its portion of the Council Tax,

leading to a reduction in our net budget of £3.7 million,” said Suffolk Coastal’s Leader, Cllr Ray Herring.

“Now Government is removing the Revenue Support Grant, significantly reducing our core funding by over £2.5 million by the end of this Parliament. New Homes Bonus is also likely to be cut. Taken together, funding from these sources is being reduced from over £3.6m in 2015/16 to around £500,000 in 2019/20. We recognise that Government

is doing this as part of the drive to reduce the national deficit, but on a local level we need to properly fund our services.”

We believe that a small increase of £2.97 per annum to our portion of the Council Tax this year will put us in the best possible position to continue to invest in enabling our communities and drive economic development to safeguard the future prosperity of this area.

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Suffolk Coastal announces £1.68 million boost for affordable homes - see page 3



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“We are committed to providing grants through each Councillor to help build stronger communities through our successful Enabling Communities Initiative and continuing to collect brown bins (organic waste) for free.

“We are also investing £1.68million in creating more affordable homes to ensure people can stay within the communities where they are raised and work.”

Our move to our new, more efficient headquarters will be funded by the sale of our existing offices at Melton Hill and the sale of Cedar House, so there will be no extra burden on the tax payer. This will lead to year on year savings of up to £500,000 of our running costs.

We are also looking to develop an even closer partnership with our colleagues in Waveney. This innovative partnership has already saved us £16 million since 2008.

Where your money goes...

Suffolk Coastal is responsible for collecting Council Tax for the district, although the total amount collected is divided between Suffolk Coastal, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police & Crime Commissioner and town and parish councils.

This money is used to provide local services such as education, social services, libraries, police, refuse and recycling collection, leisure centres - to name just a few.

Less than 10% is kept by Suffolk Coastal to provide services which benefit everyone from businesses to individuals, community groups, the environment, and nature.

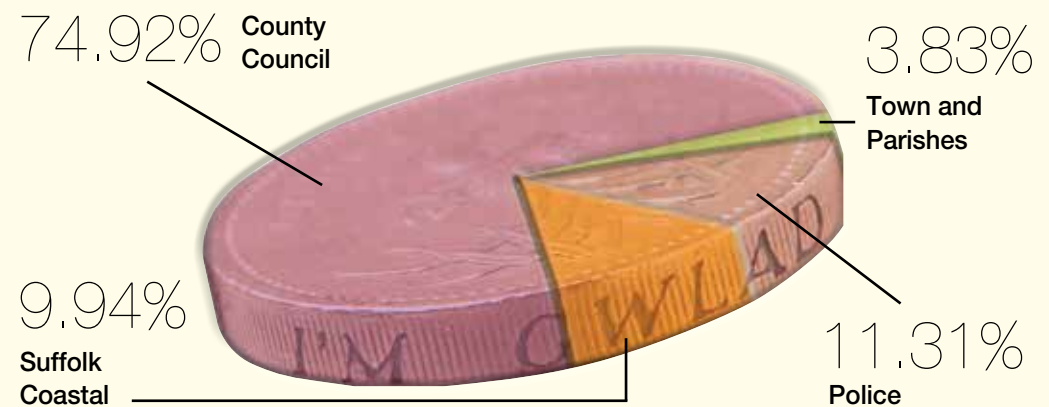
The average Band D Council Tax bill in the district will be £1,533.66, which is made up of:

Suffolk County Council **£1,149.03** (74.92%)

Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk **£173.43** (11.31%)

Suffolk Coastal District Council **£152.37** (9.94%)

Average for Town & Parishes **£58.83** (ranging from £0.00 - £148.12) (3.83%).



Contact Us

General enquiries

You can do much more @ www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk, it's quick easy and cost effective.

Tweet and follow us: [@suffolkcoastal](https://twitter.com/suffolkcoastal)

www.facebook.com/suffolkcoastal

[Linked in](#)

[YouTube](#)

Email: customerservices.scdc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

You can call us on **01394 383789**

- Monday to Wednesday 8:45am - 5:00pm
- Thursday 9:30am - 5:30pm
- Friday 8:45am - 4:30pm

Minicom/textphone: **01394 444211**

Visit us

From the library locations we have public access computers and free Wi-Fi

District Council Customer Services –

Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge, IP12 1DT
Opening times from April 2016.

- 8.45am – 5.00pm Monday to Wednesday
- 9.30am - 5pm on Thursday
- 8.45am - 4.30pm on Friday
- Citizens Advice Bureau** drop in session Tuesday 10.00am-12.00pm

District Council Customer Services –

Felixstowe Library - Crescent Road, Felixstowe IP11 7BY

Opening times:

- 10am - 4pm on Mondays
- 9am - 5pm Tuesdays to Fridays
- SNAP Support and Advice Project** – Friday 9.30am-12.30 & 2-4pm
- Citizens Advice Bureau** drop in session, Monday 10am-12pm

For **refuse collection and recycling** enquiries contact **Suffolk Coastal Norse Ltd**
Telephone: **01394 444000**
or Email: scs@ncsgrp.gov.uk

For **Port Health** enquiries, based at the Port of Felixstowe:

Telephone: **01394 614933**.

Email: port.health@scpha.gov.uk

Website: www.porthhealth.eu

Tourist Information centre

- Aldeburgh 01728 453637

Leisure centres (managed by Places for People Leisure)

- Felixstowe 01394 670411
- Brackenbury 01394 270278
- Leiston 01728 830364
- Deben Pool 01394 383789

We are closed on all bank holidays

Out-of-hours emergency telephone service

Contact both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils on:
01502 527133.

£1.68 million boost for affordable homes

Suffolk Coastal has announced a massive boost to providing affordable homes in the district.

The Council agreed at a Cabinet meeting in February that money from planning Obligation Payments (Section 106), which the Council has built up from previous developments in the District, should be invested in ensuring more local people can afford to live here.

Specialist staff will work with developers and communities to deliver the right type of housing in the right places to meet local people's needs.

The plan is not to build new Council Houses, but to invest money in developments, then sell the property and free up the money for future investments.

"Providing more affordable homes is one of our key priorities. The current situation is breaking up our communities. Young people on low incomes and elderly residents looking to downsize are being forced out of the communities they want to live in," explained Cllr Richard Kerry, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Housing.

"Put simply, the current system is not working and does not meet the needs of this Council or local people. We need to invest in unlocking the potential of this area."

"This is a complex area where, even when we do our part by giving developers planning permission, we cannot force them to build. So many affordable homes are not built, despite our best efforts."



Suffolk Coastal have allocated £1.6.8M to building affordable homes

"We will be working closely with communities, Town and Parish Councils, as well as developers, to re-invest the money to stimulate the local housing property market. This is an exciting new radical initiative for Suffolk Coastal and shows our commitment to making

things happen in this area."

"It is not about a 'one size fits all' approach, but bringing the developers, Councils and communities together to provide the type of homes and developments that the communities need to meet their requirements."

Thanks for supporting local plans

Suffolk Coastal would like to thank those who engaged last autumn during the Preferred Options consultation on two Local Plan documents - the Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies and the Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan.

All comments are now being considered and the plans are being revised ready for another opportunity for local people to comment in April/May, before the documents are submitted to a Planning Inspector for independent scrutiny.

Cllr Tony Fryatt Cabinet Member for Planning, said:

"These documents are an important part of our Local Plan as they include local policies to help shape future development in the District and identify land for a variety of uses, including housing and employment, over the next 10-15 years.

"We have gone to great efforts to ensure that the public had the opportunity to make known their opinions. The strength of these plans is that they now reflect the consensus views across the District."

For further information, visit: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/policy

Thinking about building your own home?

The Self-build and Custom Housebuilding Act 2015 requires local councils in England to keep a register of people who are interested in self build or custom build projects in their area.

"By signing up to the register, you will help the Council find out more about the demand for custom and self-build plots in Suffolk Coastal, where people would like to live and the type of house that they would like to build. The information will be used to explore ways people and plots can be brought together", explained Cllr Tony Fryatt.

To register your interest for



a custom or self build plot, please complete the online registration form at: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/selfbuild

To find out more about the project please contact Jim Selby, 01394 444557 or email: suffolkcoastallocalplan@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Sale of Suffolk Coastal Headquarters

Suffolk Coastal has announced that it has a preferred bidder to buy its Melton Hill headquarters site.

The sale of the 3.23-acre plot of land in Woodbridge follows the Council's decision to move to a new purpose-built headquarters in Melton.

One of the key aims of the move is to protect the tax payer, by reducing the council running costs in the future, as the current headquarters is becoming increasingly expensive to maintain and run.

The site is a prime location, overlooking the River Deben and with views across to Sutton Hoo, close to Woodbridge town centre.

The Council began market-

ing the Melton Hill site in April 2015. Following a shortlisting process, which not only looked at price but also issues such as payment of the Community Infrastructure Levy, design and provision of affordable homes, four of the developers were interviewed before the decision was made to select Active Urban Property Group as our preferred bidder, subject to contract.

The plan is to create about 70 new homes on this site, of which about 33% will be affordable homes. The company intends to start its planning and design process immediately. This will include engaging in a 12-week community consultation process to inform the layout and design proposals.



Suffolk Coastal will be moving out of its Melton Hill offices later in the year

New council offices to be named

'East Suffolk House'



Work is progressing well at Suffolk Coastal's new offices

The work to build Suffolk Coastal's new headquarters, opposite Melton railway station, is progressing well.

The external cladding, windows and sedum (green) roofing are now in place, and the building is set to be completed on schedule by the end of May.

We will then be taking over the building to fit it out to our requirements with the intention of moving into it during the autumn.

The building will officially be named 'East Suffolk House' after Councillors and members of staff came up with suggestions.

Does your tenant have a Right to Rent?

Right to Rent is now live across England which means all private landlords, including anyone subletting or taking in lodgers, need to carry out quick and simple checks on all new tenants to make sure they have the right to rent property in the country.

Landlords now need to check identity documents for all new tenants and take copies.

A wide range of documents can be used for the checks, and the Government has worked closely with housing and homelessness charities to design a document list which can accommodate

different individual circumstances.

This includes where people do not have traditional identity documents such as a passport.

Online resources are available to help landlords comply with the new rules, including a checking aid which landlords can use to guide them through the process and to request a check on anyone who has an outstanding case with the Home Office.

For more information about making the checks, visit: www.gov.uk/right-to-rentchecks

New customer services at **Woodbridge Library**

Work to develop and upgrade Suffolk Coastal District Council's Customer Services in Woodbridge Library is due to be completed by the end of March.

The development is part of the Council's plan to provide more services in the heart of the community at our current shared facility within Woodbridge Library and ties in with our move to new council offices in autumn 2016.

Suffolk Coastal is working to provide better Customer Services, dealing with issues at the first point of contact, with more staff being based at the library and able to deal with more enquiries. Customers will also benefit from services that the library provides including printing services, internet access and free WiFi.

The development will incorporate a new shared helpdesk for library and council staff, a new private interview room and a quieter dedicated area for



An artist's impression of the new Customer Services in Woodbridge Library

accessing computers and for reading or study.

Last year, a new partnership working arrangement was set up with Felixstowe Library to improve services to people of Felixstowe, and now handles more enquiries

including housing benefits, elections, environmental and tourist information. The upgrade has resulted in more people visiting the library with nearly 900 more people visiting in 2015 compared to the previous year.

Suffolk Coastal Customer Services opening times at Woodbridge Library from April 2016:

- 8.45am – 5pm on Monday -Wednesday
- 9.30am - 5.30pm on Thursday
- 8.45am – 4.30pm on Friday
- Saturday & Sunday: Closed
- Bank holidays: Closed

Landlords urged to **check vital alarms**

Under the Smoke and Carbon Monoxide Alarm (England) Regulations 2015, private sector landlords are now required to ensure at least one smoke alarm is fitted on each storey of their property and that a carbon monoxide detector is installed in any room containing a solid fuel-burning appliance.

Landlords must also ensure that the alarms are in proper working order at the start of each new tenancy and may be asked to provide evidence of this following any housing inspections by the Council where an issue is identified.

From 1 January 2016, this legislation has been

enforced by the Private Sector Housing teams of both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

For more information on how to comply with the new legislation, contact the Private Sector Housing team on: **01502 523119** or **ps.housing.wdc@eastssuffolk.gov.uk**.

Have your say on air quality

Local people are being asked their views on two reports about the District's air quality.

"The Updating and Screening Assessment Report confirms that across the district our air quality remains generally good, with just three very specific areas of concern," said Cllr Carol Poulter, Suffolk Coastal's cabinet member for the Green Environment.

"These are the declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMAs) in Felixstowe, Woodbridge, and on the A12 at Stratford St. Andrew."

The consultation started in March and we are welcoming feedback and particularly any comments you may have for the draft Action Plan for Stratford St Andrew.

The reports can be found on our website at:

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/assets/Documents/District/Air-quality/USA-Report-2015.pdf and **www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/assets/Documents/District/Air-quality/Stratford-St-Andrew-Further-Assessment-Report.pdf**

Alternatively, paper copies are available for viewing and borrowing at Melton Hill.

Please email comments to: **environment@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk**, or post them to: Environmental Protection, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU **by Friday 29 April 2016**.

Don't lose your vote

With two important elections coming up – the Police and Crime Commissioner elections on 5 May and the EU referendum on 23 June, it's never been a more important time to check you are registered to vote. If you aren't registered to vote, please do so **before 18 April**.

It's easy to register if you

haven't already done so online, at: www.gov.uk/registertovote.

Registering only takes a few minutes and you'll need your date of birth and National Insurance number. If you need help to register you can contact our customer services team by calling **01394 444422**.



Voting in the Police and Crime Commissioner elections

Voting for Suffolk's Police and Crime Commissioner takes place on 5 May and your vote will help decide who will be appointed to oversee the running of your local police force, including appointing the Chief Constable, setting the local budget and deciding what the priorities should be for the police in Suffolk.

Stephen Baker, the Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, has once again

been appointed as the Suffolk Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) for the PCC elections.

Candidates have until 4pm on 7 April to submit their nomination forms to the Returning Officer.

The Election uses the Supplementary Vote system. Voters will be asked to make a first preference choice and a second preference choice for who they want to become the Suffolk Police

and Crime Commissioner.

There will be two columns on the ballot paper and electors will mark a cross against their first preference candidate in the first column, and a cross against their second preference candidate in the second column if they wish. The first and second choices must be different.

The ballot papers from around Suffolk will be counted and if one candidate receives more than

50% of the first preference votes, they will be elected.

If no candidate reaches the 50% threshold, the two candidates with the highest number of votes go forward to the next stage of the count when the second preference votes for those two will be counted. The candidate with the most votes at the end of this process will be elected.

For more information, visit: www.suffolkparo.org.uk

Street party toolkit



Image courtesy of [artur84](#) at [FreeDigitalPhotos.net](#)

Thinking of organising a neighbourhood street party in celebration of the Queen's 90th birthday?

The Government has produced a guide to help

communities organise their own street party in time for Her Majesty's official birthday weekend in June.

The guide sets out all the things you need to think about and what information you will need to let us know.

Organising a street party just for residents and neighbours is very simple and you don't always need a licence.

To read the guide, visit: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/streetparty

Sizewell C consultation

We are waiting for information about EDF's Stage 2 consultation on the proposed new nuclear plant at Sizewell C.

You can visit our website page: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/sizewell where you can find:

- Our response to EDF's Stage 1. Consultation
 - Feedback from the town and parish engagement events
- Other related documents and information

If you have any questions you can email the Sizewell C team at: sizewellc@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Caring for **our communities**

We believe local people know best what's needed to make their communities better places to live and work – that's why the Council has a set of tools to support our communities. The Enabling Communities

Budget gives each councillor £5,500 to spend on supporting community projects, local organisations and initiatives in 2015/16.

Since April, our councillors have spent over £200,000

on a variety of projects across the district.

If you would like to find out what your local councillor has spent their budget on, use our online councillor search tool which can

be found at: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/councillors

Here's a round-up of some of the most recent Enabling Communities successes:

Yoxford bowled over by support

Yoxford Bowls Club members are joining forces with residents in the village to save their bowling green from closure.

The club is planning to protect its future by buying the green from the landowner. To do this it is organising a series of fund-raising events. The bowls club currently has 50 members, including 15 juniors, and has attracted support from local residents, councillors and local groups to organise fund-raising activities, including coffee mornings, jumble sales and a sponsored 12 hour bowls game by two of the club's junior members.

Yoxford Bowls Club hopes to have funding in place by spring 2016.

Cllr Stephen Burroughes will be contributing funding from his Enabling Communities Budget.

For further information and to give your support please contact Mrs Margaret Robinson, 10 Strickland Manor Hill, Yoxford, Saxmundham IP173JA (Telephone: 01728 668570).



Some of Yoxford Bowls Club's junior members

With a little more help the

Felixstowe on ice!

The Ice Rink brought to Felixstowe during the festive period has been hailed a great success.

The synthetic ice rink was brought to the town by Felixstowe Town Council with support from the East of England Co-operative Society who gave permission to have the rink on the forecourt of its Great Eastern Square shopping complex and supermarket in Hamilton Road.



A big thank you from Bea and Zack

District councillors Michael Deacon, Stephen Gallant, Stephen Bloomfield, Doreen Savage, Tracey Green, Andy

Smith and Peter Coleman together provided £3,000 from their budgets to help the project.

Councillors support Suffolk charity

A large number of Suffolk Coastal Councillors have got behind a Suffolk charity and donated funding from their Enabling Community Budgets.

Together, Councillors Stuart Bird, Stephen Bloomfield, Doreen Savage, Peter Coleman, Tracey Green, Mike Deacon and Steve Gallant have given £6400 to Headway Suffolk, a charity which provides a vital service to people suffering from the effects of strokes, dementia, MS, Parkinson's and other neurological conditions.

Helen Fairweather, Chief Executive at Headway Suffolk, said: "We're very grateful to the local councillors for providing this funding.

"It will help us to provide help to people with neurological conditions within Felixstowe and the surrounding area without them having to travel to Ipswich and will ensure that our services remain accessible to local residents."

To find out more about the charity, visit: www.headwaysuffolk.org.uk

Further transformation in East Suffolk



The future working relationship between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils is being examined – with the possibility of a merger being explored.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have been working increasingly closely, since appointing a joint Chief Executive in 2008. This partnership has been key to the Councils' ability to make £16million efficiency savings since 2008.

Now, at a simultaneous Cabinet Meeting on Monday, 14 March, leading councillors from both Councils will consider a report examining all the options for the future from forming a wider partnership with one or more other district/borough councils through to formally merging Suffolk Coastal and Waveney into a single district council for East Suffolk.

The report concludes: 'Both councils are committed to ensuring that East Suffolk is in the best possible position to respond to, and take advantage of, these emerging opportunities

and challenges.....The Cabinets are now asked whether they want the joint Senior Management Team to develop a draft business case for the formal merger of the two district councils.'

It is stressed these proposals are still at a very early stage. Any merger could not happen without a lengthy democratic process, including public consultation, which would run until 2019 at the earliest.

In a statement, the Leaders of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, Cllrs Ray Herring and Colin Law, said: "Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have been successfully working in partnership since 2008. We

“ we need to continue to explore new and innovative ways of making savings ”

were the first councils in Suffolk, and among the first in the country, to adopt this approach.”

“This partnership working has played a key role in both councils' ability to drive down costs and provide more efficient front-line services, giving local



Leader Ray Herring says partnership working has played a key role in both councils

tax payers better value for money.”

“However, in the current economic climate, when Councils are being forced to put up Council tax for the first time in six years, we

a joint east Suffolk website – now they are looking at whether there are clear benefits and further efficiencies from building closer working links.

“If the councils decide to explore the possibility of a merger, because it is felt this will help us to deliver better services and provide better value for money, this would have to be agreed by both Full Councils, as well as there being public consultation and the Boundary Commission being involved,” said the Leaders.

“Any such proposal would be subject to a lengthy and full democratic process, which would be in the public domain over a period of years and would not be implemented before the 2019 elections.’

New East Suffolk website

Our website is currently being updated – look out for a new look and feel in the spring.

The website will incorporate both Suffolk Coastal

and Waveney websites onto one platform and aims to be clearer and more accessible through smartphone devices and tablets.

Once we have launched

the new website, we'd love to hear your feedback. You can also send us any comments about things you would like to see in the future, please email: web@eastsuffolk.gov.uk



Image courtesy of Chris Sharp

East Suffolk Means Business

At a time of great challenge for local authorities across the country, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have published their vision for the delivery of services to communities across the two districts.

The East Suffolk Business Plan presents the Councils' key priorities and ambitions between now and 2023 and details how they will seek to improve the lives and opportunities of all local communities.

This is the first time the Councils have ever produced a joint Business plan and, as one of the most progressive local government partnerships in the country, it is a

natural progression following many years of innovation.

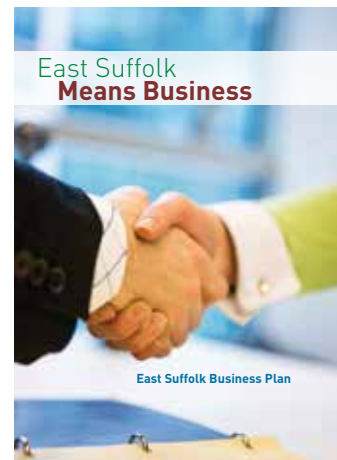
However, in an increasingly challenging financial environment, both Councils know that they must continue to innovate and seek ways to ensure local communities are best served and protected.

Cllrs Ray Herring and Colin Law, Leaders of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney respectively, said: "Partnership working has already played a key role in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils' ability to drive down costs and provide more efficient frontline services, giving local tax payers better value for money. Now we have taken the next step in partner-

ship by developing our first joint Business Plan to further drive forward our work across East Suffolk.

"We view this as a positive step towards adopting a more business-like approach to developing financial self-sufficiency, encouraging growth across East Suffolk and enabling our communities to develop from within to maintain our unique quality of life.

"While this document provides our Vision for the future, we will also continue to be flexible in our approach to meet the changing economic situation; and keep this Plan under regular review to ensure it meets the current



The Business Plan sets out the Council's priorities until 2023

and future needs of our communities".

To read our Business Plan, visit: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/east-suffolk-means-business-business-plan

Coastal projects welcome regeneration funding

Coastal Community Teams across East Suffolk in December celebrated the news that a number of coastal regeneration projects have been awarded development grants to help enhance and improve the area's coastline.

The announcement by the Department for Community and Local Government revealed that projects at Bawdsey, Felixstowe and Lowestoft have been selected from over 220 applications to receive a share of the £3million Coastal Revival Fund.

The funding will be used to help secure key coastal attractions, public areas and heritage structures along the Suffolk coastline.

Suffolk Coastal's cabinet

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



Coastal Community Teams across East Suffolk are celebrating this boost in funding.

member for Economic Development and Coastal Management Cllr Andy Smith said: "We are delighted with the success of the bids from Suffolk Coast-

al's two Coastal Community Teams for funds from the government's Coastal Revival Fund to make even more progress, in the immediate future, with

our programme to expand and update the variety and quality of opportunities for both visitors and local residents along our wonderful coastline".

Work to begin on new **Felixstowe events area**

At a Cabinet meeting in March, it was agreed that the work to Felixstowe's former boating lake will be completed by Kier Construction Ltd.

The work to create an outdoor events area at the yacht pond will begin next month (April 2016) and is due to be completed during the summer.

The new area will feature a

grassed open space and hard standing car park.

The area will serve as a multi-use events space which will function as a car park and picnic area when not required for events. It is anticipated that the events area could attract fairs, markets & exhibitions to support the local Felixstowe economy.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, cabinet

member for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said: "The boating lake site has been left vacant for a number of years now which is a shame because of its prime location in the town.

"I'm pleased that the works will soon bring this site in line with a number of newly completed projects in Felixstowe and will further help to boost tourism in the town.



The boating lake in July 2014

"We hope the space will be an attractive and flexible area, suitable for a range of different events and encourage more events to take place on the seafront."

Celebrating our **Seafront Gardens**

The completion of the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens refurbishment project was officially celebrated in December with a ribbon cutting ceremony at the South Cliff Shelter in the Town Hall Garden - the eighth (and final) garden to be completed.

The build of the iconic shelter was the final piece of work to be completed and is now a beautiful centre point to the garden.

Since the work, the gardens are now bedding in nicely and will continue to mature and grow and we have a 10-year maintenance plan in

place to ensure the gardens are kept in pristine condition.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said: "We're so pleased to see the completion of this unique project in Felixstowe.

"Since the gardens re-opened in the summer, we've had a great response from local people and tourists visiting the area.

"We're already seeing more people using them and the addition of the lighting in the gardens means visitors are



Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf at the ribbon cutting ceremony in December

able to enjoy the gardens on winter evenings.

"Although the project may now be at an end, we have a long term commitment with the gardens through support from the Heritage Lottery

Fund's 10-year maintenance plan to ensure the gardens are looked after."

For more information, and to see photos of the gardens, see: www.felixstoweseafrontgardens.org.uk

Become a friend of the gardens



The Friends of Seafront Gardens are looking for more volunteers to help them look after the much-loved gardens.

The friends make a valuable contribution to the gardens by not only maintaining them but also working hard to promote their vibrant history and heritage.

The friends meet from 10am-12pm on the third Saturday of each month

from April – September and on Wednesdays all year round.

If you think you, or someone else you know, may be interested in joining the group, and are a keen gardener, please email us at: felixstowe.forward@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Music in the gardens

Music in the gardens takes place on Sunday 24 April from 12-4pm with music from the 1920s to the modern day for everyone to enjoy. There will also be an opportunity for you to join in on dance classes and learn the steps! For more information about the event visit: www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk

A day in the life of a **Student Environmental Health Officer**

It's a cold and windy morning out in Butley and Grant Webber, Suffolk Coastal's student Environmental Health Officer, is busy taking samples of shellfish caught this morning. This is just one part of his challenging and varied role within Suffolk Coastal!

Once a month and every week, Grant collects samples from oysterage farms in the district to test for contamination and toxins. These samples are then sent onto a fisheries laboratory which co-ordinates with Public Health England to ensure our local shellfish is safe for us to enjoy.

Grant has been working as a student Environmental Health Officer since October 2015 after studying Environmental Health at university and is working his way through the teams within Environmental Health. He needs to complete a years placement

to become an Environmental Health Officer.

Since Grant started his job, he's worked with the Council's Food and Safety and Private Sector Housing teams and he will move into Environmental Protection in April.

Grant said: "I think it is underestimated how much the Council does until you are a part of it. It's amazing how big a role Environmental Health has within the council and in people's everyday lives."

From Bournemouth originally, Grant has always had an interest in science and hopes (after a lot of hard work) to follow in the footsteps of officers here at Suffolk Coastal.

He said: "Working at a council is a good place for a student to continue their learning as it gives you practical training



Student Environmental Health Officer, Grant Webber

on the job as well as giving you plenty to write about when submitting a Portfolio of Professional Practice."

Phil Gore, Head of Environmental Services and Port Health at Suffolk Coastal, said: "Grant has been a real asset to the department and has been keen to learn as much as possible about the work of an Environmental Health Officer during his

12-month placement with us.

"We have offered a training placement for graduates on the Environmental Health Degree for over 20 years now and it's served us well as recruiting qualified and experienced officers has often proved difficult. A number of the officers currently working in the department were trained and recruited through the programme."

Eat Out, Eat Well

Eat Out, Eat Well is a new award which helps you make healthier choices when eating out in Suffolk.

The award recognises food businesses that commit to providing healthier food choices. Bronze, silver and gold awards are available to a range of catering establishments including: cafés, restaurants, sandwich shops, private schools and staff canteens.

To achieve the award, businesses must follow

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk



the principles of a healthy balanced diet. These include keeping fat, sugar and salt to a minimum, making fruit and vegetables widely available and basing main meals on starchy carbohydrates.

It's free to apply for the award. To find out more, get advice, apply or nominate a business, go to: www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/EatOutEatWell

Where's the sticker?

If you enjoy eating out, you should know that the Food Hygiene Rating Scheme makes a real difference in helping you to make a good choice.

When you're choosing somewhere to eat for family and friends, you want to know that the business takes food hygiene seriously.

Checking the food hygiene rating first is one of the little things you should do for peace of mind and to help keep your loved ones safe.



Simply look for the green and black rating sticker on the window or door and if you don't see one, ask 'where's the sticker?'

If you can't see the green and black sticker – you can ask or check the rating online: <http://ratings.food.gov.uk/>

Coastal Communities Fund progress

A number of Coastal Communities Fund projects are now up and running across the Suffolk Coast! Here are just some of the good things being developed through the government funded programme...

Volunteer Tourism is now thriving with three research and conservation volunteer holidays planned for 2016, at Dunwich (May & October) and Orford (September) and are now available for people to book onto.

A series of 'Outstanding Landscape' walks are soon to be organised across the Suffolk Coast. Each walk is

based on the beauty unique to our area, and will have a superb guide detailing what to see and look out for.

The Young Producers Group is an exciting group of 11 individual businesses working together to promote Suffolk as a food-rich county. One of their many events includes a Pop Up restaurant in London as a great way of taking the country to the city and showing others what Suffolk has to offer.

The children's viewing sculpture at Snape Maltings entitled 'Myriad' is now closer to becoming a



Young Producers Group - Image courtesy of Keiko Oikawa

reality. The winning design was chosen through a competition and has been designed by David Rickard and German Di Chello.

For more information about the project visit: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/ccf-programme

Have you seen **BERT**?

Coastal businesses across Norfolk and Suffolk are being supported to plan for a resilient future.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils in partnership with the Environment Agency and Groundwork, have developed an online toolkit which helps businesses to plan and prepare for events such as the tidal surge in December 2013.

The Business Efficient

Resilience Toolkit (or BERT) is helping businesses to develop and build a resilience action plan. The toolkit comes with a support package provided by Groundwork, which includes telephone support, workshops and individual support. This is provided free of charge to coastal businesses.

If you would like to find out more about BERT and how it can support your business visit: [www.getbusiness-](http://www.getbusiness-resilient.co.uk)



BERT can help businesses better prepare for events like flooding

[resilient.co.uk](http://www.resilient.co.uk) or contact Anna Martin, Operation

Manager at Groundwork on **01473 350377**.

Inspiration for **the community**

Wickham Market are working hard to bring the empty East of England Co-op store on the High Street back to life and vitality.

The Town Team have set up a new company called Inspirations which will lease

part of the old shop to provide space and recruit small retailers and new start-ups to provide a range of goods to attract people to the village centre. It will be run as a Social Enterprise and engage with the local community by selling shares

and returning profits to community projects

The company has now successfully raised £12,000 in grants and donations, including £5,000 from Suffolk Coastal District Council, with the remaining £15,000 to be

raised through the issue of the shares.

If you would like to know more or are interested in supporting the venture, contact the Town Team: wm.inspirations@gmail.com.

Chairman's challenge

Suffolk Coastal District Council's Chairman, Councillor Susan Harvey, has now visited over 100 parishes as part of her year-long challenge to visit every parish in the district.

Cllr Harvey has now visited 103 of 118 parishes since starting her challenge in May and says she undertook the challenge because she wanted to celebrate the wide range of community events happening throughout the district - visiting everything from community lunches to Burns Nights.

Cllr Harvey said: "I would like to say a big thank you to all those who volunteer in their communities to organise such a wide range of wonderful events!

"Without the kind help of volunteers our small communities would not flourish and it's wonderful to see so many people giving up their time for the benefit of others".

Susan has also been using



Cllr Harvey at Homestart's stall at Grundisburgh's Village Show 2015

the opportunity to sell bottles of water 'Eau de Deben' which has unfortunately ended in her arrest for fraudulently selling counterfeit goods.

To teach Cllr Harvey the error of her ways, Suffolk Police have arranged for her 'arrest' and set a bail of £500 for her release.

Please help free Cllr Harvey by making a donation to her Bail fund, with all proceeds going to Home Start East

Suffolk, one of her chosen charities. Home Start offers support and friendship for young families when life proves a little tough.

To donate, visit: <https://mydonate.bt.com/events/freecouncillorharvey/285896>

To find out all the events Susan has visited, have a look at her photo gallery at: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/chairman-s-challenge-gallery-one

Bawdsey Radar

The world's first operational radar station in Bawdsey is set to be restored thanks to a £1.4m grant with support from Suffolk Coastal.

The Bawdsey Radar Trust has been celebrating the £1.4m from the Heritage Lottery Fund with plans in place to bring the heritage site back to life and back into the community.

Part of the grant agreement meant the Trust had

to secure match funding to support the project.

Suffolk Coastal in total provided £20,000 in 2015 to progress their funding efforts.

Cllr Andy Smith, cabinet member for Economic Development, said: "The historic radar station is an important and treasured part of our heritage in Suffolk Coastal and we are delighted that after much hard work, by the Trust and the wider commu-

nity, they have secured this funding, assisted by our funding team, and direct support also from the Council.

"Without this vital funding, the building could have closed to the public forever, as it was getting into a dangerous condition. Now the building has a definite future and can expand its role in developing the tourism offer and its boost to the local economy in this area."

Hailing high standards for taxis

Suffolk Coastal's Licensing team ensure your safety by continually monitoring licensed drivers and their vehicles. As customers, do you know what to look out for?

Is the driver of the vehicle correctly licensed?

All licensed 'drivers' should wear a badge displaying photo ID and their drivers' licence number.

Is the vehicle you are hiring correctly licensed?

Hackney Carriage vehicles can trade in designated 'Taxi Ranks'. Private Hire vehicles can only be pre-booked. Both types of vehicle should display licence plates; one on the outside rear of the car and one on the inside of the front screen; these show the expiry date of the licence.

How about comfort and service?

The vehicle should be clean and tidy, inside and out, and the driver courteous and helpful. You should have room to sit comfortably and carry a reasonable amount of baggage. Private hire vehicles are operated by companies who must ensure that the booking contract has been correctly fulfilled - any queries about your booking or trip can be dealt with by the company or by the licensing team.

And cost?

There is a maximum amount that hackney carriages can charge set by the local authority. Proprietors can offer discounts but should not charge more than the set amount. The initial set charge for the Coastal District is £3.40 or £3.90 after 22:30 - this would be displayed on the meter when you start the journey. Private Hire Operators can charge what they choose - so make sure when you make a booking that you ask for a quote.

Forum highlights **real progress in East Suffolk**



The future of East Suffolk was the feature at the East Suffolk Partnership's third annual forum held at the Trinity Park Conference Centre in November.

Over 200 key people from organisations, businesses, voluntary groups and communities across East Suffolk attended the forum, which this year, was themed on 'finding innovative solutions to local issues'.

The aim of the conference is to help build better partnership working in East Suffolk, allowing the delegates the opportunity to meet members of the East Suffolk Partnership Board, hear about progress in developing a collaborative



Delegates at the the East Suffolk Partnership forum in November 2015

approach to working across East Suffolk and to also help develop new solutions for the future.

Ray Herring, Chairman of the East Suffolk Partnership, said: "Once again the forum has been a positive opportunity for us to reflect together on successes over the last year and celebrate the proud

record of collaboration we have in East Suffolk.

"Each year the forum is growing and in turn we are developing stronger relationships with groups from all sectors who are returning to the conference which continues to work as an excellent catalyst for new ideas, projects and initiatives."

Thriving **Community Buildings**

The Thriving Community Building project developed by the ESP has been supporting communities to build resilience through their community buildings in east Suffolk since November 2014.

To date ten communities have received on site audits and 19 have received support over the phone and by email.

From the completed reports, annual savings of over £12,000 and carbon savings of under 60 tonnes have been identified.

The ESP have now approved £34,870 in funding to further support the project which is jointly delivered by Groundwork Suffolk and Community Action Suffolk.

The project now hopes to support a further 35 communities and will continue to signpost and encourage existing communities to progress their resilience.

ESP funding announced

In December the East Suffolk Partnership Board allocated £155,000 to match fund outcomes relating to the partnership's five key areas of activity:

- Build on economic prosperity, growth and infrastructure development
- Ensure people have the skills to meet employment opportunities
- Encourage a growing, ageing population to be healthy and live well
- Build strong communities and reduce inequalities in health, housing, and crime

- Improve lives through environmental action

£54,000 in funding has been given to make funding available for community groups to apply for to secure business or project planning support to enable them to move forward with their community projects.

In recognition of the significant contribution and impact that faith groups make to the health and wellbeing of our residents and communities, £5,300 in funding has been provided

to help develop a stronger network of faith groups across East Suffolk.

£55,000 in funding has been given to provide Local Area Coordination to support vulnerable people in East Suffolk. A Local Area Coordinator combines a number of roles in a single, local point of contact and supports people within their local communities. Their role is to work with anyone at risk of increased vulnerability, supporting them to identify their vision for a better life and develop

their plans for getting there.

£6,000 in funding has been given to create a Community Economic Development Strategy in Lowestoft to provide an evidence base that will enable a Community Economic Development Project to apply for funding through the European Structural Investment Funds.

To read about the funding proposals in full, visit: www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/espboardmeetings/esp-board-meeting-16-december-2015

Show your love for East Suffolk



Volunteers play a big part in helping to look after our environment

People across East Suffolk will this spring be rewarded for showing love for the environment we live in.

A new incentive-based community litter pick scheme, 'Love East Suffolk', has been launched to encourage more volunteers to help keep our environment clean and tidy.

For each community group that carries out litter picks, a small financial reward will be offered for all, as well as them

being entered into a prize draw for a larger reward, both of which have been funded through Norse.

Cllr Carol Poulter, cabinet member for the Green Environment, said: "I'm very proud of the hard work that is put in by our groups of volunteers across East Suffolk who make sure our environment is kept clean and tidy.

"We now want to encourage more people to take pride in their environment and show

some love for the area they live in.

"Keeping our beautiful county litter-free is not only good for local residents, but is a great way to bring the community together and can help improve the habitats of local wildlife."

If you would like to book equipment to start your litter pick, visit: www.suffolk-coastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/envprotection/love-east-suffolk

Thank you for being green!

Brown bins will continue to be collected for free in Suffolk Coastal, following a decision in November.

The issue was prompted in response to Suffolk County Council's decision to reduce their funding of recycling credits in this area.

We have an excellent track record of recycling in the district and in 2013/14, we were in the top 10% of local authorities in the country (coming 19th out of 352 authorities) with a recycling rate of 57.44%.

We now hope to build on that good performance and become even better!

Your brown bin can be used for garden waste and all types of food, cooked or raw, as well as shredded paper and cardboard.

Your brown bin is emptied fortnightly on the same day your blue lidded bin for recyclable materials is emptied.

Not sure when to put your bins out? You can check your collection day and collections using our online bin collection day finder on our website.

For hints and tips about waste reduction, visit: www.suffolkrecycling.org.uk

For more information, visit our website: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/brownbin

Clean for The Queen



Clean for The Queen is a campaign to clear up Britain in time for Her Majesty the Queen's 90th birthday, which will be officially celebrated in June 2016.

When she came to the throne, litter was not the problem that it is today.

Food packaging, plastic bottles, takeaway meals and cigarette butts have all contributed to a growing menace that affects our wildlife, streets, countryside and sense of pride.

What better way could we show our gratitude to Her

Majesty than to clean up our country?

The campaign is calling on individuals, volunteer groups, local councils, businesses and schools to do their bit. You can start now and also take part in our Clean for The Queen weekend on 4, 5 & 6 March 2016.

To take part, visit: www.cleanforthequeen.co.uk/home/2365

Celebrating 30 years

Felixstowe Leisure Centre marked its 30th anniversary in January with a day of fun filled activities.

The Leisure Centre opened its doors for free on Saturday 23 January to showcase its facilities and new programme of activities.

There was plenty of games and fun to keep the whole family entertained, including a treasure hunt, competitions, Funtasia and prize draws, as well as swimming lessons and a pool party.

People also had the chance to try out activities such as bowls and group workout sessions.



Thank you to all who came along to the open day in January!

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said: "The Leisure Centre is an important part of the community in Felixstowe

and we hope it will remain as much a part of the community as it is today, in another 30 years time".

For more information about

the full range of activities that Felixstowe Leisure Centre has on offer, visit: www.placesforpeopleleisure.org/centres/felixstowe-leisure-centre

The Suffolk Walking Festival

More people are being encouraged to explore our area by taking part in the 9th annual Suffolk Walking Festival from 14 May – 5 June 2016.

The fun-packed programme incorporates over 70 walks throughout Suffolk with an eclectic mix of walks, with lengths ranging from 1.5 to 60 miles and which explore various themes, including history, architecture, mindfulness, photography and even pilates!

To celebrate Suffolk County Council's Year of Walking, the programme also includes a range of 'challenge walks' for both experienced and novice walkers, which emphasise



the benefits of walking for mental and physical health.

The Suffolk Walking Festival will be launched at the beautiful RSPB Minsmere on the 14 May and is supported by Suffolk Coastal. There will be refreshments, music, special guests and four launch walks led by RSPB volunteers.

To view the programme and book tickets for the walking festival, please visit: www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk

Get snapping at Landguard

Don't forget to get your entries into this year's Landguard Photography Competition!



There are three themes this year to choose from: Sea, Structure and Portraits of People. Entrants may only submit one photograph for inclusion into any one of the three themes.

This year the "Judges Choice" winner will WIN a cash prize of £50 to put towards photographic equipment, plus a framed copy of their photograph.

There are three themes this year to choose from: Sea, Structure and Portraits of People. Entrants may only submit one photograph for inclusion into any one of the three themes.

Last year's winner – Thomas Harvey

Closing date for entries is 12pm on **Thursday 1 September 2016**.

Full details of the competition (including terms and conditions) are available on the Discover Landguard website at: www.discoverlandguard.org.uk/landguard-photography-competition-2016-enter-now

This edition of coastline is also available in large print, on audio tape or CD for blind or partially-sighted residents. Call 01394 444361