

Council Tax Frozen for Fifth Year

Suffolk Coastal is pleased to announce that Council Tax is being frozen for the fifth consecutive year.

Suffolk Coastal's Leader, Cllr Ray Herring, said: "We have worked to streamline our services, driving down costs and becoming more efficient, while maintaining essential frontline services."

Suffolk Coastal was one of the first councils in the country to provide shared services, with our partners Waveney District Council, reducing our combined workforce by about 40% since 2008.

This, along with improved use of technology and other part-

nership working, has enabled us to make £10million worth of efficiency savings since 2010 and to keep Council Tax at the same level as 2010/11 – with a Band D home paying £149.40.

“Suffolk Coastal remains a great place to live and work, with a high quality of life”

"We have achieved this while still investing in our communities. We successfully introduced our Enabling Communities Strategy, to encourage people to take a more active role in developing their communities," added Cllr Herring.

"As well as maintaining our community grants, we have made extra money available through your local Councilors to support improvement projects, helping scores of local schemes.

"We are also working to ensure Suffolk Coastal remains in a sustainable, resilient financial position in the future. Our planned move to a new headquarters will make us more efficient, reducing our running costs, saving £8million of

tax payers' money over 20 years.

"I remain optimistic for the future. That is not to say we are not facing challenges. We have a predicted budget gap of £2.71million to fill over the next four years," said Cllr Herring.

"And, through our Local Plan, we are striving to balance the district's need for new homes and businesses, while safeguarding our communities and unique environment.

"I believe Suffolk Coastal remains a great place to live and work, with a high quality of life, and I am sure we can rise to these challenges together." he said.



**They're back
– Women's
Tour Returns
to Suffolk
Coastal –
Back page**

Last year's champion, Marianne Vos, will be returning to compete on Suffolk Coastal's roads in this year's Women's Tour.

Are you Registered to Vote?

The electoral registration system in England and Wales changed to a new system called 'Individual Electoral Registration' on 10 June 2014.

Previously, the 'head of household' was responsible for registering everyone who lived at the address, but now every individual is responsible for their own voter registration. The new system enables people to register online. Anyone registering for the first time under the new system will need to register themselves individually.

The last date on which you can register to vote in the UK Parliamentary and Local Elections on 7 May 2015 is the 20 April 2015, however if you have recently moved please register as soon as possible, in case further enquiries regarding the application are necessary.

You can register at www.gov.uk/register tovote or if you do not have access to the Internet you can call **01394 444 422** and an advisor can register you online over the telephone. However, under the new system as well as your name and address you must now provide your date of birth and national insurance number when you register to vote, so please have these details to hand when you call.

For more information you can contact the Electoral Services Team at Suffolk Coastal District Council by email at: elections.scdc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Make your Vote Count!

Voters will have the chance to have their say on the face of the future UK Government when they take to the polls during the General Election on Thursday May 7.

Elections will also be held in Suffolk Coastal with all 42 seats up for grabs as well as seats for parish and town councils on May 7, for any contested areas.

This huge combination of elections will not occur again for another 20 years, and will see Suffolk Coastal's Elections Team dealing with over 1,000 candidates in the run up to the polls.

Prospective candidates who are interested in standing in either the UK Parli-

Important dates in the election period
• Notice of Election (local elections) Monday March 23 2015 – Start of the nomination period for local elections.
• Notice of Election (general elections) Thursday April 2 2015 – Start of nomination period for the UK Parliamentary Election.
• Deadline for receipt of nominations (all elections) Thursday April 9 at 4pm – Nominations must be delivered by the deadline of 4pm on this date.
• Deadline for registration to vote – Monday April 20 – deadline for voters to make sure they are registered on the Register of Electors so they can vote on May 7.
• Deadline to apply to vote by post, Tuesday April 21 at 5pm – deadline for voters to submit an application to vote by post at the election on May 7.
• Deadline to apply to vote by proxy, Tuesday April 28 at 5pm – deadline to submit an application.
• Polling Day, Thursday May 7 – hours of the poll are 7am – 10pm.

mentary election, District Council elections, or Parish/Town Council elections can obtain information about standing for election from

the Elections Team at Suffolk Coastal District Council by email at: elections.scdc@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or by calling **01394 444685**.

Review of electoral wards in Suffolk Coastal

The Electoral Ward changes in Suffolk Coastal have now become law. New ward arrangements for Suffolk Coastal have now successfully completed and will come into force at the local elections in May 2015.

Suffolk Coastal will be represented by 42 councillors in the future - thirteen fewer than currently. Those councillors will represent eleven single-member wards, fourteen two-member wards and one three-member ward across the district - 26 electoral wards in total.

Speaking after the order was made, Suffolk Coastal's Leader, Cllr Ray Herring, said: "I recognise the review and bringing in these changes has been a long process, but it is important we streamline



the council to make it more effective in representing local communities. I would like to thank everyone who took part in the process and contributed to the consultation. It has been worthwhile. Now we have a clearer, modern structure, which will reduce our running costs and is suitable to take the council

forward to address the challenges of the future."

Details of all stages of the electoral review of Suffolk Coastal are available on the LGBCE's website. For more information, see: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/your-council/wardreview

New Headquarters Revealed

Suffolk Coastal has revealed the site of its new headquarters building.

Last year, the council decided to move from its ageing existing office in Melton Hill, Woodbridge, to more modern premises to reduce its running costs.

Now Suffolk Coastal has revealed it has finalised the details of the new headquarters. The council will be moving its headquarters to purpose-built offices on a brown field site opposite Melton railway station.



An artists impression of Suffolk Coastal's new headquarters

The council has purchased part of the former Girdlestones site, owned by Riduna Holdings. The cost of land acquisition and building new premises is £3.9m, which will be met from existing resources. Suffolk Coastal will generate capital funds through the sale of both its existing headquarters and nearby Cedar House.

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.

Now the contract is agreed, Suffolk Coastal's Melton Hill site will be put on the market, allowing the council to move into the new building late in 2016.

"The harsh reality is our existing headquarters in Melton Hill, Woodbridge, is an ageing building, which has become increasingly expensive to maintain and is too big for the council's existing staffing level," said Cllr Robert Whiting, Suffolk Coastal's cabinet member with responsibility for Resources and chairman of the accommodation project board.

"The move will allow us to create a modern working environment, which is affordable, adaptable, sustainable and compatible with Suffolk Coastal being an efficient, forward-thinking organisation which is dedicated to giving local people the best possible quality of service at the lowest possible cost.

"We are faced with mounting costs the longer we stay on this site, whereas the new site will save us, and the tax payer, an estimated £200,000 a year in running costs initially, rising to £500,000 a year in the longer term.

"This move will not place any extra burden on local tax payers and we will have invested in a modern building, which is sustainable, cheaper to run and will be adaptable for our future needs," explained Cllr Whiting.

"The additional benefit is we will be using a brown field

site, which has stood derelict for some time, and will give Melton a boost by moving into the village."

The developer, Riduna Holdings Ltd, is delighted to have secured this sale to Suffolk Coastal District Council, which will become the first occupiers on this brand new five-acre landscaped office village under development.

"We are looking forward to creating a landmark office building for Suffolk Coastal District Council, which will provide them with a modern efficient working environment and lead the way forward for other occupiers to join them on this premier office village site," said a company spokesman.

Units will be available on a freehold or leasehold basis, ranging from 1250 sq ft to 25000 sq ft For further information, call Riduna Holdings Ltd on **01728 748111** or **07860 308020**



What the new building could look like

Community Infrastructure Levy Update

The council undertook two rounds of public consultation on the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) Draft Charging Schedule in 2014. The CIL will be a charge placed on all new residential development to ensure that funds are collected to provide infrastructure and facilities required to support future growth across the district.

On Friday 5 December 2014, the Council formally submitted the CIL Draft Charging Schedule to the Planning Inspectorate for examination. The Planning Inspectorate has appointed Katie Child to conduct the examination. To support the examiner, the council have also appointed Annette Feeney to act as the CIL Programme Officer throughout the examination.

The examination into the CIL Draft Charging Schedule will take place on Thursday 19 March 2015 at the Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew. The hearing will be open to the public but only those who have previously made representations to the CIL Draft Charging Schedule and requested to be heard by the examiner, will be invited to speak.

Following the hearing session, the council will expect to receive the examiner's report and look to implement CIL charges across the district later in the year. For further information on any aspect of the CIL project please contact the Planning Policy and Delivery Team on **01394 444558**.

Rendlesham Referendum



Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan, seen here being presented to Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, is the first in the county to progress to referendum

The people of Rendlesham have become the first in the county to have a referendum on a Neighbourhood Plan.

The Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan has achieved a series of firsts. It was the first to be submitted in Suffolk Coastal – and is one of the first in the county. Now it is the first Neighbourhood Plan in Suffolk to progress through to referendum stage.

The referendum was held on Thursday, 5 March, to allow local people to have their say on the question of: 'Do you want Suffolk Coastal District Council to use the neighbourhood plan for Rendlesham to help it decide planning applications in the area?'

"Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan was the first of the neighbourhood plans being prepared by communities in Suffolk to progress to refer-

endum stage," said Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Suffolk Coastal's cabinet member with responsibility for Planning.

"If the community have voted 'yes' at referendum, this will become a key document, which will be used by Suffolk Coastal to inform our decision making on planning applications in the Rendlesham area in the future."

The referendum follows consideration of the Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan by an independent examiner. In his report, the

Independent Examiner, Nigel McGurk, said: "The Rendlesham Neighbourhood Plan is the result of a significant, sustained community effort over a number of years."

"It demonstrates the passion that local people have for turning a vision for Rendlesham into a neighbourhood plan capable of delivering the sustainable development the community needs."

For further information, visit: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/rendlesham

Photography Exhibition

The Ipswich and District Photographic Society will be holding their annual photographic exhibition in the Council Chamber at the Town Hall in Ipswich, IP1 1DH, from Tuesday 3 March to Saturday

14 March. Opening times are from 10am – 5pm Tuesday to Saturday and admission is free.

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

One Stop Shop Opens

The new partnership working arrangements between Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk Libraries to bring improved services to the people of Felixstowe have been unveiled.

Under the new arrangements, Felixstowe Library effectively becomes a 'one stop shop', providing Suffolk Coastal customer services and information, as well as library services, under one roof.

And to accommodate the change, Felixstowe Library on Crescent Road has also extended its opening hours to include Monday, following consultation with customers.

The library has been refurbished, creating a new meeting room, as well as new desks for the Suffolk Coastal and library staff.

From Monday 16 February, people have been able to go to the library to get information and help on a wide range of council services, as well as library functions.

"The key to this partnership project is our desire to bring improved services into the heart of Felixstowe, while also making best use of our



Suffolk Coastal's cabinet members Robert Whiting, TJ Haworth-Culf, Doreen Savage and Andy Smith flank Suffolk Libraries' Sylvia Knights (centre) as she officially opens the new one stop shop at Felixstowe Library

limited resources and providing local tax payers with value for money," explained TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal's cabinet member with responsibility for Customers, Communities and Leisure.

"We are committed to making our services more accessible to our residents. While we continue to work to improve our online service delivery, at the same time we recognise that having face-to-face contact remains important."

"Previously, people from Felixstowe would have to travel to Woodbridge for some of these services. Now they are available in the heart of their local community."

The new facility at Felixstowe Library allows Suffolk Coastal to centralise and boost the services it offers in Felixstowe. This integrated service takes over from the Tourist Information Centre in Undercliff Road West from 16 February.

Tony Brown, chair of Suffolk Libraries Board, said: "We welcome this new partnership facility at Felixstowe Library. A similar arrangement in Beccles Library was launched a year ago and has been working very well with increased visits to the library and positive feedback from both library and council customers. I'm sure local people will appreciate being able to get an even wider range of key services in one place."

Residents Warned of Council Tax Scam

Local residents are being warned of a possible Council Tax scam.

Suffolk Coastal was made aware of the possible scam, after a Kesgrave man received an email, entitled 'Your Council Tax Bill Overdue', claiming he had

an unpaid Council Tax Bill.

Thankfully, the resident was not taken in by the scam and did not respond. Instead, he contacted Suffolk Coastal to make us aware of the email.

Suffolk Coastal will never send an email demanding

for personal information or asking you to update your details. All bills including arrears notices, are sent by post and we accept payments through the secure web-based system or by telephone. If in doubt, do not respond, and check with us or the police.

For secure online payments, visit: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/contactus/payments/online

Further advice about scams and online safety is available on the Suffolk Police website, visit: www.suffolk.police.uk

Boating Lake to receive makeover



The boating lake in July 2014

An outdoor events area has been proposed for the area behind Felixstowe's Leisure Centre.

The yacht pond and former go-kart tracks and crazy golf site has been vacant for a number of years and will now receive a tidy-up so it can become a part of the seafront once again.

The boating lake will feature a grassed open space, a mix of hard standing car park for 70 vehicles and a reinforced

grassed events area for multi purpose activity which could attract fairs, markets & exhibitions to support the local Felixstowe economy. This will include two sites for kiosks, a cycle lane through the area, landscaping and lighting.

Suffolk Coastal is planning to invest £500,000 in the project which will also include work on the underlying business case to support the scheme and will include the generation of income from events, car parking and concessions.

New role for Felixstowe donkey trail

The former donkey trail on Felixstowe's seafront is also to be given a new lease of life.

Felixstowe residents have now finished their consultation to decide what the site could become after funding became available to rejuvenate it into an outdoor activity area and have decided that the area should be trans-

formed into a Trim Trail.

Felixstowe Town Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council are working together on the project after funding became available through the Outdoor Play Space Fund to provide a new facility for 14 year olds and over.

Residents were asked to take part in a survey and

consider three options for the site located between the old boat pond and the small amusements; an Outdoor Gym, Trim Trail or a Parkour activity area.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said "This is another excellent example of the Outdoor Play Space Funding being



used to provide a positive shared space for the whole community."

Inspiring women to get involved in sport

A national campaign has been launched to encourage and inspire more women to participate in sport.

'This Girl Can' is a celebration of active women across the UK taking part in sport and physical activity without any worries about how they look. The campaign, developed by Sport England and a range of partnership organisations, has been created to inspire women and girls to be more physically active.

This Girl Can aims to break

down this barrier and show that women can exercise with confidence and without the fear of being judged.

If you would like to try a new sport, there are hundreds of sports clubs, classes and activities in Suffolk Coastal to choose from. Go to: www.suffolksport.com and search for activities and events in your area.

There is also a wide range of classes and activities at the council's sport and leisure centres in Woodbridge,



Felixstowe and Leiston.

For more information and inspiration, please visit: www.thisgirlcan.co.uk 6am to 10pm, please call: **01473 461 407**

Be a responsible dog owner

With summer approaching, dog walkers are reminded dogs cannot be taken onto the main beaches at Felixstowe, Aldeburgh and Thorpe Ness between **1 May and 30 September**.

Remember – always take a dog poo bag when walking the dog, and bag it and bin it - any litter bin will do!

If you require help, contact the Dog Warden in strictest confidence, on: **01394 444 000.**

Work Starts On **New Projects**

Work has started on two new projects to bolster the public facilities at Martello Park in Felixstowe.

As part of this on-going development on the South Seafront of Felixstowe, Suffolk Coastal is building new toilets and providing additional play equipment.

And both projects will include new facilities for disabled people.

“It is great to see how the Martello Park is developing. We have already seen more and more people coming down to the South Seafront to use the existing play area and kiosks. These additional facilities should build on that success and attract even more people,” said Cllr Robert Whiting, Suffolk Coastal’s cabinet member with responsibility for Resources.

“I am particularly pleased to see the inclusive nature

of these new facilities. We are investing in making sure people with differing needs are properly catered for and can enjoy themselves along the seafront.”

The new toilets, costing about £200,000, near the new car park off Manor Terrace at the southern end of the development, will have one unisex disabled toilet (with baby changing unit), as well as three unisex conventional toilets (with one baby changing unit) and a gents urinal, plus outside showering facilities.

It will include a ‘Changing Places’ facility to allow people to attend to the ablutions and toileting needs of severely disabled people, such as quadriplegics. The facility has a changing couch and an electric track hoist mounted in the ceiling, which will enable a carer to lift a person out of a wheelchair and move them onto the couch. This facility was

requested during consultation with Felixstowe Town Council.

There is only one other ‘Changing Places’ facility in the district - in Cobbold Road, Felixstowe, in the new public convenience built in 2010.

The project site work started in February, and should be completed at the beginning of May.

And, at the same time, work is also beginning at the northern end of the development to install £150,000 worth of new play equipment.

This additional equipment is designed to complement the existing play area at Martello Park, but will also include specialist equipment to allow more inclusive play for mixed abilities, including wheelchair accessible equipment.

This project is the result of Suffolk Coastal District Council entering into a development agreement with Bloor Homes to bring new homes and leisure facilities to the South Seafront in Felixstowe.

The Martello Park development will provide a much-needed boost to this part of Felixstowe. Work began on the 7.08 hectares (17.5 acres) site, which is owned by Suffolk Coastal District Council, during the summer of 2012.

As part of the agreement with the council, Bloor Homes has also created a leisure and recreation space beside the development, which includes play areas, kiosks, picnic areas and wildlife areas, as well as a pedestrian and cycle path through the public space that links Manor Terrace to Orford Road, improving links to the town centre, pier and Landguard Fort.

In all, 127 new homes will be created (97 three-bedroom and 30 two-bedroom flats), which will include 13 designated as ‘affordable housing’.

Visitors and residents in Felixstowe are also benefiting from two new car parks, providing over 260 new parking spaces, next to the multi-million pound development. These new pay and display car parks, created at no cost to the Council, are owned and run by Suffolk Coastal, with the money made going towards helping keeping local taxes down

For more detail on the ‘Changing Places’ facility, see: www.changing-places.org



New play equipment is being added to Maritime Park at Martello Park in Felixstowe

Seafront Gardens taking shape

Work is progressing well on the prestigious multi-million pound Felixstowe Seafront Gardens Restoration Project.

The £4.8million scheme to restore, adapt and enhance the Grade II listed gardens, is funded jointly by Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Heritage Lottery Fund, with the support of other partners.

There are eight gardens being restored in a prime location along the centre of Felixstowe's popular seafront.

Work is on schedule to be completed later this year – with five of the gardens due to re-open to the public during the spring, and the remaining three gardens being re-opened this autumn.

When Suffolk Coastal District Council consulted the people of Felixstowe in 2007, they identified the restoration of the Seafront



Tour of site on 4 December 2014

Gardens as a key priority to support the regeneration of the town.

The project aims to restore and enhance the heritage asset of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens to maintain its cultural and historic significance, extend accessibility and appeal to a new gener-

ation and wider audience'.

The Seafront Gardens developed as a result of the popularity and fashion in late Victorian times for visiting coastal locations, in pursuit of improved health and relaxation.

The natural springs occur-

ring along the cliffs, together with the proximity to the beach, led to this site being developed as a popular pleasure ground around a pump room for people to take the spa waters.

The Gardens allowed visitors to promenade, enjoy the sea air and walk



Meet the team, our contractor Breheny who are working on the project

– in addition to the reputed health-giving qualities of the Felixstowe Spa water. Today, the gardens still have much to offer residents, businesses and holiday-makers alike.

For more information on the history of this unique site, and this restoration project, see: www.felixstoweseafrontgardens.org.uk or the Facebook page www.facebook.com/FelixstoweSeaFrontGardens

John Biglin has been appointed as Community Development Officer for the Seafront Gardens project, based at Felixstowe Town Hall.

Over the next few months, he will be talking to local people about how they would like the gardens to benefit the local area and community. If you want to know more, or want to get involved, please contact John on: **01394 444578** or john.biglin@eastssuffolk.gov.uk



Historical photographs of the gardens

Become a **Friend of the Gardens**

The Friends of Seafront Gardens are looking to recruit a wide variety of ages and talent from the local area to join the group and would love to hear from you.

There are plenty of positives to come from volunteering and helping in your local community, including a sense of achievement and pride in your town.

The friends meet on the

third Saturday (10am-12pm) of each month from April through to September.

If you think you, or someone else you know, may be interested in joining the group please contact us on **01394 444 576/ 444 578** or visit our website: www.felixstoweseafrontgardens.org.uk/friends-of-the-gardens

or Facebook page: www.facebook.com/Felixstowe-SeaFrontGardens



Gardening dates for your diary

Following the Friends of the Seafront Gardens AGM on 29 January 2015 we have now planned the upcoming gardening dates for 2015 as follows:

18 April	18 July
16 May	15 August
20 June	19 September

Leisure sites selected for **Great East swim programme**



People aged between 14 and 25 and over the age of 50, who don't regularly take part in physical activity, are being urged to rise to the challenge and register for the Great East Swim 2015 training programme.

The training programme will take place at Leiston Leisure Centre for the 14-25 year olds and at Felixstowe Leisure Centre for people aged 50 and above with 24 places at each location.

Thanks to ongoing funding and support from Sport England the programme which focuses on the individual and their ability, aims to improve confidence, motivation, social skills, fitness and energy levels, self-esteem, mobility and stamina.

The 50+ programme along-

side the young person's Sportivate programme, funded by Sport England's Sportive initiative and delivered in partnership with Suffolk Sport and Suffolk County Council, will provide the opportunity to receive:

- Three months fully supported training with professional swimming coaches
- Three months free membership at sites
- Physiotherapy support from Allied Health Professionals Suffolk
- Free entry to the Great East Swim 2015 which is on Saturday 20 June 2015
- Free wetsuit hire

Valued at over £200 per participant the opportunities are being made available at a small one-off charge of £25 per person.

Ben Jackson, Sport Development Officer, Suffolk Sport,



said: "Suffolk Sport has been supporting the Great East Swim project for the past three years because we see the benefit of using a personal challenge as a way of encouraging teenagers and young adults to get physically active. Our ambition in 2015 is to encourage those who don't see sport or physical activity as something they would normally do and change their behaviour by providing them with something new, exciting

and challenging."

If you're interested in taking part in the training for the Great East Swim 2015, but would like further information please contact Corinna Hudson, Programme Coordinator on **07905 829162**.

For more information please contact Sam Barton on **07738696363** or email: **samanthabarton@pfpleisure.org**

Gateway to **affordable homes**

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have teamed up with an innovative website service to help landlords and tenants.

'Let's Help You' provides landlords with a new way to advertise properties and offer residents a new way of searching for affordable rented accommodation in the private sector across East Suffolk. The new website service is free to use, for landlords to advertise, and for anyone looking to rent in the private sector.

This new approach puts landlords and tenants

directly in touch with one another without needing a local authority to intervene, thus speeding up the process for tenants seeking new housing accommodation and reducing vacant property times for landlords.

Download the free LetsHelpYou app from Google Play Store, or from the App Store for iOS devices.

The service is available in over 65 languages, to maximise users. If you would like to know more about this new service please visit: **www.letshelpyou.co.uk**

Get your community involved in an Energy Project

Communities throughout Suffolk have been setting up energy projects in a bid to save money and protect the environment.

Kelsale-cum-Carlton recently set up its own community energy project to generate renewable energy from a community building, with the community investors benefiting from a share of the feed-in-tariff.

If your community is interested in finding out more about community energy

or has an idea for a similar project then the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership can help. Contact its Community Advisor, John Taylor on: **01473 264595**, or visit: **www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/support**

If you are a household-er looking for advice on installing a renewable energy system to your own home, call the Suffolk Climate & Energy Helpline on **0800 02 88 938**.

Get Nominating for this Year's Design Awards

The Quality of Place Award scheme is back for the fifth time and is on the hunt for nominations for the best building work in the district.

Launched in 2010, the awards celebrate the efforts being made by people across Suffolk Coastal to add to the district's quality through new projects that have helped conserve historic buildings, create new top-notch designs, or helped benefit the local landscape, nature, local community or community spirit.

Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Planning, said: "These awards are about recognising the quality of design and conservation in our area, so if you know someone who has worked hard on a building project and deserves to have



Walk Barn Farm, Westleton was one of the award winners in 2014.

their work acknowledged, get nominating!"

Entry is free and nominations should be submitted by Friday May 29 2015.

A panel of professional and lay judges, chaired by a district councillor, will review the nominations and visit the shortlisted sites. Winners

will receive a bronze Quality of Place plaque at a special ceremony in the autumn.

For full details, along with an entry form, visit: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

People can also email conservation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 44429

Landguard Photography

competition 2015

The Landguard Partnership is proud to announce the categories for this year's photography competition.

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 competition themes to choose from: black and white, abstract and weather.

Full details of the competition (including terms and conditions) is available on the Discover Landguard website at: www.discoverlandguard.org.uk/landguard-photography-competition-2015

Closing date for entries is 12pm on **Tuesday 1 September 2015.**

SCBCA Awards 2015



Suffolk Coastal is gearing up for this year's Suffolk Coastal Business & Community Awards with the winners crowned at a celebratory awards dinner and dance at Milsoms in Kesgrave Hall on 12 March.

The awards aim to recognise and celebrate the contribution, initiatives and successes of business, groups and

individuals with the district over the past 18 months and this year the awards have expanded to include businesses and new categories have been introduced.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure at Suffolk Coastal District Council, said: "We are very excited about the 2015 awards. We've had a great response so far, from our amazing and generous sponsors to the impressive number of entries we've received and it's great to see the way this is growing and

developing each year.

For more information about

the awards and to find out this year's winners, visit: www.scbca.co.uk



Samantha Barton (Places for People Leisure), Catherine Swan (Milsoms), Niki Rousseau (EDF Energy), Oliver Richards (Milsoms), Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf (SCDC), Cllr Ray Herring (SCDC), Sarah Shinnie (SCDC), Cllr Bob Snell (SCDC), John Clough (Suffolk Sport), Chris Wakefield (Park Properties), Christina Barham (EB Carpets & Flooring)

Apprenticeship Help for Suffolk businesses

Businesses in Suffolk are being urged to take advantage of funding available to help them recruit apprentices. £225,000 of funding is available from the National Apprenticeship Service which businesses can use to help give a young person an employment and training opportunity within their companies.

There are 150 sums of £1,500 on offer, known as 'incentives', and the funding can be used to contribute to an apprentice's wages during their time with the business.

To be eligible for the funding, companies must have fewer than 1,000 employees and can't have taken on any apprentices in the last 12 months. The funding is available to support apprentices between the ages of 16 and 24. The apprenticeship incentives are available in any sector, but Suffolk County Council is particularly keen to hear from care providers. Each business can apply for a maximum of 10 incentives.

Suffolk County Council is available to help businesses through the process of recruiting an apprentice and accessing the incentive funding as part of this programme. Employers who are interested in applying should contact Suffolk County Council on **01473 260 922** or email: **apprenticeships@suffolk.gov.uk**

Meet our Apprentices

We currently have eight apprentices working across both councils and the scheme is proving to be a great success.

In celebration of National Apprenticeship Week which runs from Monday 9 March to Friday 13 March 2015, we caught up with Geena and Tom to find out how they've been getting on in local government...



Geena Clarke, has been working with the Knowledge and Information team at Suffolk Coastal since July 2014 and is working towards an NVQ in Business and Administration. Geena said: "I've enjoyed the variety that's come with the role and it's been great working at both councils as there is always something going on."

Geena's role mainly involves

working with the Performance Team and has given her experience working on a number of different projects both within Suffolk Coastal and Waveney as well as working on a number of county-wide schemes.

"I believe the opportunities I've had have exceeded beyond the typical apprenticeship stereotype and each aspect of my apprenticeship journey has always complemented and assisted my performance overall."



Tom Andrews, Economic Services and East Suffolk Partnership Apprentice has been working at Suffolk Coastal since last September. Tom says he enjoyed going straight into work after finishing sixth form: "Instead of going to uni like most of my friends, I decided to do an apprenticeship because



I wanted to get real experience while learning at the same time. It has also given me independence and got me into a good working routine."

His job involves working closely with Economic Services to work on local and district wide projects as well helping to organise and run key events. Tom says working at Suffolk Coastal has given him a strong grounding in business administration: "I've gained experience in lots of different areas and I feel my apprenticeship has helped me become more confident and improved my communication skills. I've enjoyed working in the team and I feel I've been well supported throughout my apprenticeship."

We will be recruiting for our next group of apprentices in the coming months, Keep an eye out for our vacancies on: www.jobsgopublic.com or visit: www.gov.uk/apply-apprenticeship

Don't let your waste end up fly-tipped!

Householders are being urged to dispose of their waste correctly.

If you allow anyone other than Suffolk Coastal Norse to take your household waste away, you must ensure that they are authorised to do so, so always

take their details and ask for their Waste Carrier Registration number before you let them take your rubbish.

If you would like to report incidents of fly-tipping in the district visit: **www.suffolk-coastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/fly-tipping** or call



Suffolk Coastal Norse on **01394 444000** or email **scs@ncsgrp.co.uk**

ESP Forum Success

The 'can-do' attitude of East Suffolk was celebrated at the East Suffolk Partnership's (ESP) annual conference in November.

More than 160 key people from across East Suffolk attended the forum, staged at Pontins Pakefield Holiday Park which aimed to build better partnership working in East Suffolk.

As part of the conference, delegates took part in a series of workshops and seminars with expert practitioners giving their advice. This importantly helps the partnership to

develop their priorities for the future.

Colin Law, Chairman of the East Suffolk Partnership, said: "We have a proud record of collaboration in East Suffolk and this forum offers us a real opportunity to work together to develop new and innovative ways that will bring significant benefits."

The keynote speaker for this year's Forum was BBC Springwatch producer, James Smith who praised the support from the community his team received while



Colin Law, Chairman of the East Suffolk Partnership, Springwatch Producer James Smith and Ray Herring Leader of Suffolk Coastal

filming the latest series of the programme at RSPB Minsmere. He said: "The

first thing we noticed about the people of Suffolk was their can-do attitude."

Suffolk Coastal District Council changes to Lloyds Bank

Both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney's banking services will be changing from 1 April 2015.

Lloyds Bank was awarded both councils' contracts following an announcement by the Co-operative Bank that they were no longer providing banking services to local authorities, and after

a successful joint procurement exercise at Waveney.

The new Lloyds Bank contract represents a 50% reduction in the council's banking charges for the next three years and staff are working hard with Lloyds Bank to ensure a seamless switch over from the Co-operative Bank.

If you pay your Council Tax/business rates by direct debit or other income by standing order, you will not need to take any action as these will automatically be transferred from the Co-operative Bank to Lloyds Bank, using the bank switch function.

Details of the council's

new bank accounts can be found on your 2015/16 bill that has been issued or invoices you have received.

If you pay your bill or invoice through your online banking provider, you will need to ensure you use the council's new bank details otherwise the payment will be rejected.

Group tackles loneliness

The Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project held an event on 7 November in Hacheston Village Hall to address the issue of loneliness and isolation in Suffolk Coastal.

The event, supported by the East Suffolk Partnership used £885 in grant funds to help bring key people together to increase awareness and gain more support of the issue

throughout the county.

Councillors and 'community champions' were invited, along with a range of support agencies tasked with dealing with the issue of loneliness to share research and resources from national initiative; The Campaign to End Loneliness.

TJ Haworth- Culf, Cabinet Member for Communities said: "This event is about

bringing knowledgeable and influential people together to highlight the issue of loneliness in our communities.

With so many organisations and people behind the group now, I hope this is the start of something really positive."

For more information about the project, visit: www.ruralcoffeecaravan.org.uk



Jane Cody, Coffee Club Volunteer

Thanks for recycling – keep up the good efforts

The amount of waste recycled and composted by Suffolk Coastal residents has put the district in the top 20 of local authorities in England.

During the period 2013-14, residents of Suffolk Coastal recycled and composted 57.4% of their rubbish from their blue-lidded and brown bins.

In addition, during the same period, Suffolk Coastal residents generated 169kg of residual (non-recyclable) waste per capita in their grey-lidded bins, the 25th lowest residual waste per capita rate out of 229 waste collection authorities.

Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for Green Environment, said: "I would like to say a big thank you to residents for their fantastic efforts to reduce their waste and help keep the district's recycling and composting rates among the highest in the country.

"By making a few small changes in our homes, we are helping to reduce the amount of materials going to waste and making better use of these resources. I hope this good news will encourage everyone to keep up the good work."

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

Waste tips

Remember your brown bins aren't just for garden waste – they will take any food waste as well.

You can now recycle even more – as well as cans, tins, plastic containers, textiles, paper, and cardboard, the blue-lidded bins will now accept aerosols, metal pots and pans, books, and food and drink cartons (e.g Tetra-Paks).

For more information about recycling at home, visit our website: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste

Village of the Year

This year's competition to find Suffolk's best village was launched in February and you have until Friday, 22 May, to get your entries in.

The awards aim to highlight all that is great about village life in Suffolk and are organised by the Suffolk Asso-

ciation of Local Councils in partnership with the county and district councils.

This year's competition is open to villages with an electorate of 501-3000.

For more details, see the website: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Suffolk fly-tipping campaign receives national award



Daniel Wareing, Suffolk Coastal's Waste Management Officer, Councillor Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Waste Partnership's chairman, Kevin Merton, Director of Epic Media and Helen Skelton, host of the awards ceremony

The Suffolk Waste Partnership has triumphed at the Sustainability and Resource Industry Awards 2014 for its 'Tip-Off: Stopping Fly-Tipping in Suffolk' campaign.

The campaign was nominated for an award in the Communication Campaign category at the Chartered Institution for Wastes Management's (CIWM) Sustainability and Resource Industry Awards.

In 2013, the Suffolk Waste Partnership was awarded a grant of £25,800 by Defra to develop a campaign, branded 'Tip-Off - Stop Fly-Tipping in Suffolk', to improve the prevention, reporting, investigation and clearing of fly-tipped waste - whilst reducing associated costs across Suffolk.

With the input of all partners, the campaign used a range of innovative methods to raise awareness among and advise householders, businesses, and landowners about the issue of fly-tipping and how they can help prevent it.

Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Suffolk Waste Partnership's chairman, said: "I am delighted that our Tip-Off campaign has won such a prestigious award, and that the innovative approach of the campaign have been recognised at this level."

"All those involved in the campaign have created a lasting legacy and we are all committed to continuing to work in partnership to combat environmental crime in Suffolk into the future."

Love where you live and Get Spring Cleaning

It's that time of year again when communities across Suffolk are working hard to give their neighbourhoods a spring clean.

This year, the Suffolk Waste Partnership, including Suffolk Coastal, have joined together to encourage members of the community to 'Love Where You Live' by carrying out a litter pick to



Get involved in a litter pick in your area.

support community-driven efforts to help keep Suffolk tidy.

Community litter pick events enable residents to improve their local neighbourhood and remove litter that could otherwise harm wildlife and damage the environment.

If your school, council or group would like to organise a litter pick, **Suffolk Coastal Norse** can support any group with sacks, gloves and the disposal of the bagged litter, at any time during the year.

Anyone interested in organising a clean-up in their area can contact: **01394 444 000** or register online at: **www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/fly-tipping/litter**

Traders - have you registered as a waste carrier yet?



Operation Tip-Off in 2014

Local authorities across Suffolk continue to work with the Police to carry out inspections of vehicles as part of "Operation Tip-Off" to check any trader who transports is registered to do so with the Environment Agency.

New regulations that came into force in 2014 mean if you are a trader, and regularly carry any waste gener-

ated in the course of your work, you need to register with the Environment Agency as a waste carrier, or risk a fixed penalty of £300, or a maximum fine of £5,000.

The Environment Agency provides an online tool to help businesses through the registration process, visit: **www.gov.uk/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information**



Contact Us

General enquiries

Please check our website **www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk** for any information you need.

Accessing services online is quick, easy, cost effective - and avoids you having to wait in a queue.

Email: customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

You can call us on **01394 383789**

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

Our telephone lines are usually busiest on Mondays and between 12-2pm each day. Calling outside these times avoids long waiting times.

- **Minicom/textphone: 01394 444211**

Visit us

Public access to computers that allow our customers to view appropriate websites and other useful Council information is provided at our premises.

As with the telephones, Mondays are our busiest day, as well as the period between 12 noon - 2pm being busy.

Council buildings

Customer Service Centre & Tourist Information – Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge, IP12 1DT
Opening times:

- 10am - 4pm on Mondays
- 9.30am - 5pm on Tuesdays
- 9am - 5pm - Wednesday to Friday
- **Citizens Advice Bureau** drop in session Tuesday 10.00am-12.00

Melton Hill reception

- Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU

Opening times:

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

Felixstowe Library & Information Service

- Crescent Road, Felixstowe IP11 7BY

- 10am - 4pm on Mondays
- 9am to 5pm Tuesdays to Fridays
- **SNAP Support and Advice Project** – 2nd and 4th Friday of the month 9:30am-12:30pm

- **Citizens Advice Bureau** drop in session, Monday 10am-12pm

We are closed on all statutory bank holidays and weekends.

For **refuse collection and recycling** enquiries contact **Suffolk Coastal Ltd**

Telephone: **01394 444000**
or Email: **sccs@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 centres

- Aldeburgh 01728 453637

Leisure centres (managed by PPL)

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

Emergencies outside of office hours

We operate an out-of-hours **emergency telephone service**, jointly with Waveney District Council, telephone **01502 527133**.

Aldeburgh Welcomes the Women's Tour



Suffolk Coastal's Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Aldeburgh Town Council's Clerk, Ruth Proctor; Deputy Mayor, Mike Kiff; Mayor Richard Marson; Chairman of Town Appearance, John Digby; and, Chairman of Aldeburgh Business Association, Robert Mabey

The people of Aldeburgh have welcomed the news that the seaside town is to host the finish of the 2015 Friends Life Women's Tour.

This year's event starts where last year's inaugural race finished – in Bury St Edmunds on Wednesday 17 June.

The opening stage will take 100 of the world's top female cyclists across the county. In Suffolk Coastal, they will race through Kesgrave, out to Woodbridge, then on past Rendlesham to Snape, before heading up to Saxmundham, Leiston and Thorpeness, before cutting down to Aldeburgh.

Ruth Proctor, Clerk of Aldeburgh Town Council,

said: "We are very excited. It is a tremendous privilege for Aldeburgh to be hosting the finish of stage one of the Friend's Life Women's Tour."

"It takes place at an important time of the year, as it is during the Aldeburgh Festival, so there will already be a lot of activities going on in and around the town. This is the icing on the cake. We look forward to welcoming visitors and local people, especially the school children, to this prestigious event."

And that sentiment was echoed by Robert Mabey, chairman of Aldeburgh Business Association, who said: "It is great we are having the stage one

finish here. It is brilliant for everyone within the community, from keen cyclists like myself through to all the businesses. It gives us the opportunity to raise the profile of Aldeburgh and show everyone what a quality destination this is. I'm sure this will give the town a real boost."

This is the second time the Friends Life Women's Tour has been run. It takes place from Wednesday 17 June through to Sunday 21 June with the highlights of the five stages being shown daily on ITV4.

Last year Suffolk Coastal hosted the start of stage three, which was won by the eventual overall race winner Marianne Vos.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal District Council's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said: "Suffolk Coastal is delighted to support the Friends Life Women's Tour."

"We have had a great response from the people of Aldeburgh, since we announced this news. The first stage finishing here will give a boost to this beautiful seaside town, bringing in extra tourism and raising the profile of both Aldeburgh and the entire district, while also encouraging people to have healthier lifestyles. I am sure the people of Aldeburgh, and those along the entire route, will turn out to support this exceptional event."