

## Rising to the challenge...

Despite the budget cuts being faced by all Councils, the Leader of Suffolk Coastal remains remarkably upbeat about the future.

During this period of austerity, when homes, businesses and Councils alike are all tightening their belts, Cllr Ray Herring believes that long-term decisions made in the past – and the willingness to adopt new, smarter working methods in the present – will stand Suffolk Coastal in good stead.

“We are in a sound position here at Suffolk Coastal to face the challenges of the future, because of the progressive decisions we have made in the past,” explained Ray.

“Back in 2008/9, we were one of the first Councils in the country to go into partnership, joining with Waveney to share our administration and drive down costs.”

“We have always been a lean Council, partially because we have never received the level of support through the rates support that some other Councils have had. Not just recently but going back to when I first joined the Council in 1987, we had the lowest rate support grant in Suffolk then!”

“Even from this low base figure, we have still managed to significantly reduce our

spending and have frozen Council Tax for 3 years in a row.”

While the Government is still reducing its rates support to Councils, Ray does see positives in the current situation.

“Suffolk Coastal is a growth area and that brings incentives with it, such as Business Rate Retention and New Homes Bonus,” said Ray.

“Living in a growth area also brings with it challenges, as more people require more services, create more rubbish, put in more planning and licensing applications. Each extra home and family places additional demands on the public services.”

“We need to manage the growth of the District in a way which ensures we protect the high quality environment that we have in Suffolk Coastal. This is a very special place to live. We have to make sure we don't spoil that.”

“Often it is about being flexible in how we do things, rather than just focussing on what we have to do. Frontline services are a good example, we want to protect them but we might deliver them differently to allow people to do things themselves, more quickly and better, through better use of new technology.”



*Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal District Council*

“If we don't want to drop any services, we need to learn to work smarter and more efficiently.”

Sometimes this may mean other bodies delivering a service, through what is known as Localism.

“We have always worked to be an enabling Council. It is not just about us providing grants or services to people, it is about us helping and encouraging communities to organise and take responsibility for dealing with issues themselves,” said Ray.

“The local communities know what their needs are and are often best placed to come up with practical, long-term solutions to issues. By supporting them, we can build and protect our community spirit, while providing services tailored to their needs and continuing to build for the future.”

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**Call 01394 444361**

## Finance factfile:

From 2009/10 to 2013/14, Suffolk Coastal's net budget has reduced from **£15.3million** to **£11.9million** (excluding specific localisation of Council Tax reduction grant) – a reduction of over **£3.4million** (or about 22%).

By 2015/16, the Council will be facing a further 17% cut in government grant – this is in addition to a **£2million** reduction in Government funding since 2011/12 (following the Comprehensive Spending Review 2010).

The Council's other source of income, Council Tax, has been kept frozen at 2010 levels - meaning a reduction of over **800k** in the Council Tax baseline by 2015/16.

We entered this financial year faced with a budget gap of **£1.9million** – and the budget gap is predicted to rise to over **£6.1million** by 2016/17, if no action is taken.

Suffolk Coastal is looking to achieve a **15% savings** target in 2014/15

### Staff:

By working in partnership with Waveney District Council, Suffolk Coastal has reduced its total headcount from **407** (at 1 April 2009) to **322** (as of the first quarter 2013/14).

## Where the money goes...

Most people don't realise where their Council Tax goes.

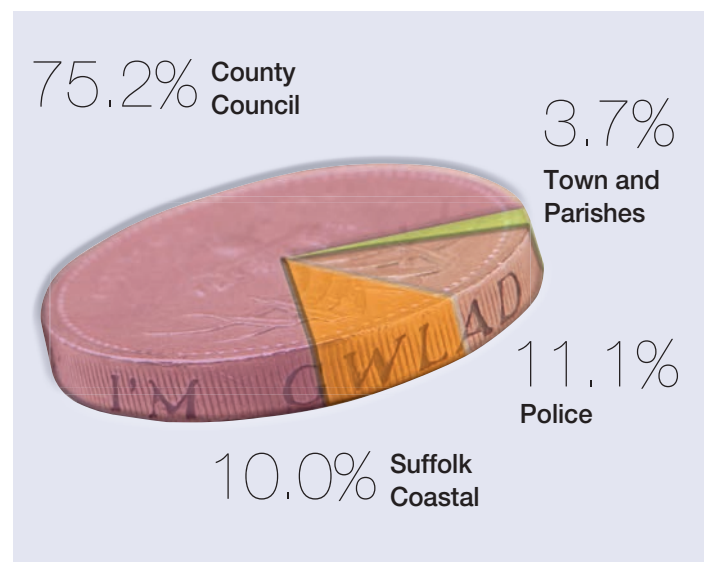
Although Suffolk Coastal is responsible for collecting the Council Tax in the District, only 1 pound in 10 actually goes into our budget.

So, when an average Band D Council Tax bill in the District is nearly £1,500, less than £150 goes towards

paying for all the services provided by Suffolk Coastal District Council.

The vast majority of the Council Tax (over 75%) goes to the County Council, with the Police getting a further 11%.

Suffolk Coastal then gets 10%, with Town and Parish Councils getting 3.7%.



## Help is at hand

If you are on Housing Benefit, but your benefit doesn't meet your full rent, Suffolk Coastal may be able to help you. People whose Housing Benefit has been restricted could be entitled to a Discretionary Housing Payment.

Further information is available from our website: [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/benefits](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/benefits).

Or you can contact us on 01394 444838, via email [benefits@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk) or pop in to the Melton Hill Council Offices, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU.

## £500k raised

The on-going review of its property led to Suffolk Coastal District Council raising half a million pounds in one sale.

The Old Court House on Woodbridge's Market Hill was sold at auction in August and raised exactly £500,000.

The money raised will be re-invested to help fund projects within Suffolk Coastal's capital programme, so will bring long-term benefits to the area." said Cllr Robert Whiting, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member.

## New look cabinet

Suffolk Coastal has got a new-look Cabinet. The membership of Cabinet remains the same, it is some areas of responsibility that have been shifted.

"We haven't had any changes at all for two years, so part of the reason for the changes is to refresh Cabinet. Mainly it is to ensure that we make best use of the skills and qualities of the people that we have on Cabinet. We are trying to make sure we have the right skills and experience in place to tackle the challenges we will face over the next couple of years," explained Cllr Herring.

"Also the Deputy Leader, Andy Smith, has taken on extra responsibility nationally as the Chairman of the Local Government Association (LGA) of the Coastal Special Issues Group, so we need to make sure he has the capacity to take on this new workload."

For a full list of the Cabinet, with their new responsibilities, is laid out on Page 7.

**Note: Cabinet members are quoted within this edition of coastline with the responsibilities they had prior to the Cabinet changes.**

## New homes ready

The multi-million pound project to regenerate the southern seafront at Felixstowe has entered an exciting new phase – with the new homes now on sale.

Suffolk Coastal District Council entered into a development agreement with Bloor Homes to bring much-needed new homes and leisure facilities to the South Seafront in Felixstowe.

And the development should provide a much-needed boost to this part of Felixstowe.

“I’m proud of what we have achieved here. Bloor Homes have been a good partner, who have stuck with this project through the recession and have delivered a quality housing development,” explained Suffolk Coastal’s Leader, Cllr Ray Herring.



Cllr Ray Herring is pictured with Bloor Homes managing director, Andrew Marns. Picture Courtesy of Archant Newspapers

“I am confident that the project will deliver the benefits we anticipated. It has created much-needed new housing in Felixstowe, bringing in funding to protect the Martello Tower, providing extra car parking and there will be new leisure facilities, which will attract more people down to that area.”

“Before this, the area had

been looking rather sad and run down for a number of years. This should revitalise that end of the sea front. It is part of a package of positive projects we are working on to lift 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.

## Streamline Council Taking Shape

Even the number of Councillors on Suffolk Coastal District Council is not immune from review and possible reduction.

An independent review is currently being carried out by experts from the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) into the number of Councillors the District should have in the future.

The aim is to create a streamlined Council, where each Councillor is representing roughly the same number of people.

In its response to the LGBCE

consultation on possible ward patterns, Suffolk Coastal recommended that the District be represented by 42 Councillors (rather than the existing 55) – which would save about £100,000 a year.

The Council’s own recommendation is one Councillor less than the 43 that the LGBCE had said it was ‘minded’ to suggest for Suffolk Coastal. It was felt that 42 gave a better overall ward pattern.

The LGBCE is due to publish its draft recommendations for consultation in January 2014.

## Call help

If you had a fall, how would you call for help? As part of our partnership working, Suffolk Coastal residents can now register for the Personal Alarm service offered by Waveney Norse, on behalf of Waveney District Council.

The service means you can summon help by simply pressing a button that you wear on your wrist or around your neck.

The service is available to both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney residents at a very reasonable cost. To find out more or to arrange a demonstration, please call 01394 444000.

Suffolk Coastal now has a plan to guide the District’s development over the next 15 years. The Core Strategy and Development Management Policies document was formally adopted by the Council on 5 July 2013 and re-titled the Suffolk Coastal District Local Plan - Core Strategy and Development Management Policies.

This Strategy sets out the vision for Suffolk Coastal to 2027. It took over a decade to develop and agree the Strategy, following a process including extensive public consultation as well as an independent examination process by the Planning Inspectorate.

The Strategy sets out principles for providing new homes and extra jobs in the District over the next 15 years, together with the necessary associated social, community and physical infrastructure improvements. It also ensures there are strong policies in place to protect the unique and treasured environmental and historic quality of the area

The Strategy includes policies for: Provision of 7,900 new homes across the District during the next 15 years, including 2,000 new homes south and east of Adastral Park, Martlesham Heath; Extra employment land, to allow for industrial/commercial development and the creation of new jobs; Protection of the of the District’s high quality environment.

There is also a commitment to undertake an early review to fully assess the full up-to-date housing needs of the area, commencing by 2015.

## Felixstowe

### Seafront Gardens

Suffolk Coastal District Council has terminated the contract for the restoration work at Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens.

The Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) is funding Suffolk Coastal District Council with a grant of more than £2million to restore, adapt and enhance the gardens.

Work on the Seafront Gardens Restoration Project began in mid-May this year (2013).

However, on 25 July, the Cabinet member for Leisure and Economic Development, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, informed the Full Council meeting that 'contractual issues' had arisen on the project and the matter had been put into the hands of the Council's lawyers.

This culminated in the main contractor being informed that the contract has been terminated because of their breach of contract.

Now, subject to HLF approval, the Council will embark on a procurement process to identify a new contractor to carry out the restoration work.

"It is disappointing that we have been forced to terminate the contract, because we had hoped to find a positive solution to this situation," said Cllr Holdcroft.

"However, we need to move on and focus our efforts on the procurement process to identify a new contractor who can complete this important restoration project in the heart of Felixstowe's seafront."

## Working together

A new organisation is starting to take shape – committed to building better partnership working across East Suffolk. The East Suffolk Partnership (ESP) was created on 1 April 2012 after a review of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Strategic Partnerships recognised the benefit of improving the way organisations worked together in the area.

The ESP is a non statutory, non executive organisation that brings together organisations from the public, business, community and voluntary sectors to support each other and work together

to achieve common priorities.

"At a time when so many local organisations are under increasing pressure to collaborate in delivery of local activities and services, the ESP represents a new start for collaborative working in East Suffolk," said the chairman of the ESP, Ray Herring.

The ESP will be holding its first annual forum at Trinity Park Conference Centre on 22 November. The Forum will give representative the opportunity to meet members of the East Suffolk Partnership Board and hear about progress in developing



a collaborative approach to working across east Suffolk.

Delegates will have the opportunity to help shape the ESP's priorities for future work streams and seminars will be arranged to offer specialist knowledge from expert practitioners.

If you would like to know more email [info@eastsoffolk-partnership.org.uk](mailto:info@eastsoffolk-partnership.org.uk) or call the Partnership Manager, Luke Bennett, on 01394 444252

## National Safe Parking Award

**Car parks in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have received national recognition for their safety standards as part of a police-led scheme.**

'Park Mark' status is awarded to parking facilities that have quality management, appropriate lighting, effective surveillance (where appropriate) and a clean environment. The Police then examine the

criminal statistics for each car park, and upon meeting the requirements, the car park receives its award.

Five across Suffolk Coastal - King Street, Oakley Square, Pier Bight, Pier Front, Fort Green - achieved the prestigious safety status.

Clapham Road and Pakefield Road in Lowestoft, both met the requirements, as

did Southwold's Pier and Harbour sites; The car parks are owned by the two Councils and managed by Waveney Norse and Suffolk Coastal Services on their behalf.

Keith Bartlett, Suffolk Constabularies Architectural Liaison Officer said, "This means that these facilities are amongst the safest and best in Suffolk."

## Nathan snaps up prize



The 'Judges Choice' in the Landguard Partnership Photographic Competition in Felixstowe has been named as Nathan Bates.

This is Landguard Partnership's third photography competition and it attracted around 40 entries over three categories.

You can visit the winner's gallery: [www.landguardpartnership.org.uk/competition](http://www.landguardpartnership.org.uk/competition)

# HQ Review update

The review of Suffolk Coastal's office accommodation is nearing completion.

The review was launched in May, when the Accommodation Project Board was set up to ensure Suffolk Coastal has office accommodation to suit its future requirements, as a progressive, modern Council.

This comes after a previous report suggested that the facilities at the Council's Melton Hill headquarters were no longer fit for purpose, because it is increasingly expensive to maintain and it is simply too big for our current staffing level.

The Board is now drawing up its final recommendations on the way forward.

"Although no decisions have been made yet, we had reached the point where

we identified four possible options for the future, with three possible sites and including one option for remaining on the current Melton Hill site," said Cllr Robert Whiting, chairman of the Accommodation Project Board and Cabinet Member for Resources.

"The report to Cabinet was to get permission to continue the work and to look at these options in detail, doing feasibility studies to narrow the field down. Hopefully, we will be able to come back to Cabinet with our preferred option towards the end of this year."

"The key for us is to ensure that we find a solution that provides value for money, when compared to our existing costs, while meeting the needs of our communities and our workforce," said Cllr Whiting.



"We cannot expect our staff to provide a high quality of service, if we house them in accommodation which is

not fit for purpose. We need to create accommodation which is fit for the future."

## Boost To Local Communities

One of the ways that Suffolk Coastal is giving local communities a boost is by giving them more responsibility for managing land and property in their area.

"Suffolk Coastal has a proud record of switching assets over to the relevant town or parish Council" explained Cllr Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources. "The driving force is to put control of these assets in local hands and making sure their future is secure."

"Gaining ownership of these assets can have a very positive, revitalising effect on the local communities."

Recently, Suffolk Coastal transferred ownership of Jubilee Park and the Pavilion to Rendlesham Parish Council.

Earlier this year, a piece of land was transferred to Alderton Parish Council to be used for allotments.

Tuddenham St.Martin, Rushmere St.Andrew, Leiston, Wenhaston, Woodbridge, Hasketon, Aldeburgh, Sweffling, Framlingham, Saxmundham, Kettleburgh and Witlesham are among the communities that have benefitted – with negotiations continuing on many more sites!

## Library turns new page

A new page has been turned in the short history of Woodbridge Library.

Since early in 2013, Suffolk Coastal District Council has widened the service it offers from the library to make it a key point of contact for the Council.

Initially linked to the closure of the Tourist Information Centre, at Woodbridge Railway Station, the Library has continued to develop into more of a one-stop shop for the Council.

As well as Library services and tourist information, you can now also speak

to members of Suffolk Coastal's Customer Service Team, who can help with a wide range of enquiries.

And, if you wish, we can also make an appointment for you to see staff from other Council services at the library.

Private meeting facilities are available, if you want to speak about a confidential matter.

We are working hard to improve our service to you - come in and visit us at Woodbridge Library - see what you think.

## Surf to a Career

Young people in Suffolk are being given the opportunity to 'surf' their way to a career – thanks to a new on-line service.

Working in partnership, Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council are investing more than £60,000 over the next two years to introduce the U-Explore system into schools and educational establishments across East Suffolk.

This unique new system, which will be available to some 19,000 students of Year 7 and above, helps match young people's aspirations with the career opportunities which are arising within local businesses.

"U-Explore gives young people the chance to follow their dreams from an early age. They can upload their career aspirations, then the system informs them of the type of qualifications they will need and shows them similar jobs that may be of interest," explained Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities.

"It is also a two-way networking IT platform, so local employers can be aware of the students' interest in their field, then can make them aware of forthcoming training and employment opportunities."

Some 1,600 businesses across East Suffolk have already opted to become part of the platform which, at its heart has a power search engine allowing students and businesses to easily access and update information.

The Council funding is for two years. After this period it is envisaged that the schools will take up the running costs.

# Hi-Tech Way To Better Services

Effective partnership working between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils is taking a huge step forward – with the implementation of a major shared IT system.

The two District Councils have been delivering shared services to local people for nearly three years now – streamlining their combined backroom services to make them more cost effective.

An essential part of this ground-breaking process is to provide the Council staff with the IT they need to do their jobs more efficiently, while also improving the service to the public.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have been working with the supplier, IDOX Computer Services Limited, to implement a system – called 'UniFORM'

Initially, the main benefits

will be seen in Planning but the system will also be used by many services across the Councils, including Environmental Protection, Food Safety, Private Sector Housing, Land Charges and Building Control in addition to Planning.

"Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have been working with IDOX Computer Services to deliver this new version of the system which is specifically designed to deal with shared services. It means that we can manage our applications and cases effectively whilst maintaining the individual sovereignty of the two Councils," said Cllr Andy Smith, Suffolk Coastal's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning.

"UniFORM is a major step forward in the Councils' implementing joint services for planning and other services. Importantly, we will

also be providing a better service to local people, because they will be able to view, track and comment on Planning applications far more easily."

The development and introduction of this new IT system is part of a £800,000 streamlining process to Planning across the two Councils. It is also expected to bring over £600,000 of additional savings during the next few years, as it is adopted across the services.

Although it is still under development, the UniFORM system is already live on the websites.

To see how the system works click on:

[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/planningsearch](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/planningsearch)

Or

[www.apps.waveney.gov.uk/pages/publicaccess/](http://www.apps.waveney.gov.uk/pages/publicaccess/)

## Web to good food and shopping

A handy new guide to where to eat and shop is now available on the Visit Felixstowe website.

The new sections on the website were officially launched in September, after a group of students from ITS Training, based in Felixstowe, visited local businesses to collect data on mostly family-run and individual establishments for the website.

The students are pictured here being presented with a certificate from the National Open College Network by Tony Coe, Felixstowe



*Where to eat and drink in Felixstowe*

Futures Chairman, at the official launch ceremony.

To view the businesses

launched on the 'Places to Eat' and 'Where to Shop' sections please visit:

[www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk](http://www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk)



## Who's Who At Suffolk Coastal

Like many successful local authorities, Suffolk Coastal is run through the Cabinet system. Cllr Ray Herring has been the Leader of Suffolk Coastal District Council since 1999 - making him the longest serving Leader in the East of England and one of the longest serving in the whole country!

"As the Leader of the Council, I have an over-arching responsibility for the performance of the Council. Ultimately, if something goes wrong, I am the one who is accountable. The buck stops here," explained Ray. "A lot of this role is about getting the judgement right. Providing leadership and direction on one side but also being very realistic about what we as a Council can and, just as importantly, can't achieve on the other side. Then it is about making sure we deliver on our promises."

The Leader is responsible for the executive functions like the selection of the Cabinet, leadership and policy development, which set the policy direction of the Council. Cabinet is the main decision-making body, but there is a 'calling in' process which allows members of the Full Council to question the Cabinet about decisions. And Full Council also retains certain important decision-making powers, such as being responsible for the Scrutiny, Development Management (planning) and Audit functions.

"The important thing is that local people understand that we are here to represent them and help ensure the Council gives a good quality, cost-effective service. If they have issues, they should contact their local Councillor," said Ray.

### Cabinet Members



**Cllr Ray Herring**  
Leader of the Council



**Cllr Andy Smith**  
Deputy Leader and  
Economic Development



**Cllr Andrew Nunn**  
Green Environment



**Cllr Mary Neale**  
Community Health



**Cllr Terry-Jill Haworth**  
Customers, Communities  
& Leisure



**Cllr Geoff Holdcroft**  
Planning



**Cllr Robert Whiting**  
Resources



**Cllr Doreen Savage**  
Housing

For more information about the membership of Suffolk Coastal's committees and how decisions are made visit  
[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourCouncil/democracy](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourCouncil/democracy)

# Your Councillors 2011-15

Key: **Conservative** 44 **Liberal Democrat** 5 **Labour** 4 **Independent** 2

The **Leader** of Suffolk Coastal is **Cllr Ray Herring** -  
for full contact details and information about committees visit  
[www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/councillors](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/councillors)

**Felixstowe North**



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**Felixstowe North**




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**Felixstowe South**




**Peter Coleman**  
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**Felixstowe South**



**Joan Sennington**  
01394 285030

**Felixstowe South-East**



**Jan Garfield**  
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**Framlingham**



**Colin Walker**  
01728 638232

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**Martlesham**



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**Melton & Ufford**



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**Peasenhall**



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**Rendlesham**



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**Rushmere St. Andrew**




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**Robert Whiting**  
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**Susan Harvey**  
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**Trimleys with Kirton**



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**Aldeburgh**




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**Felixstowe West**




**Margaret Morris**  
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**Nacton**



**Veronica Falconer**  
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**Nacton**



**Patricia O'Brien**  
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**Orford & Tunstall**



**Ray Herring**  
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**Otley**



**Peter Bellfield**  
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**Saxmundham**



**Marian Andrews**  
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**Saxmundham**



**Sir Peter Batho**  
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**Snape**



**Phillip Dunnett**  
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**Sutton**



**Christine Block**  
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**Trimleys with Kirton**



**Graham Harding**  
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**Woodbridge Farlingaye**




**Diana Ball**  
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**Woodbridge Kyson**




**Les Binns**  
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**Woodbridge Riverside**




**Geoff Holdcroft**  
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**Woodbridge Seckford**



**Josh Sayles**  
07899 045853

**Yoxford**



**Barry Slater**  
01728 648559

# Faces of the Future

Both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are committed to building for the future.

Permanent jobs are not guaranteed but their training and experience does improve their career prospects.

Apprentices now work in a wide range of service areas from Electoral Services to Communications – offering 11 apprenticeships between the two Councils. Chief Executive Stephen Baker has put his money where his mouth is. For the third consecutive year he has shown his support by donating his performance-related bonus to help fund the scheme.

Transformation and corporate services apprentice, Ben Mills started in August 2013. He said “I wanted to gain experience in a work environment. The Suffolk Coastal apprenticeship scheme has already given me loads of opportunities as well as the support I need to gain the relevant skills to advance in a career in the public sector.”

The importance of providing local career opportunities to young people in their local areas has seen Suffolk Coastal and Waveney renew their commitment to offer apprenticeships to those looking to take their first steps into local government. All of our apprentices are being supported to gain a Business Administration or Customer Services NVQ.

In January 2012, Lydia Walker started as a HR apprentice and, following her apprenticeship, she has got a job as a HR Assistant with the Council. “It was a really great opportunity, as it enabled me to gain transferable skills and earn money, at the same time as being supported to complete a vocational qualification,” she said.

In August 2013, Chloe



McVay started as an electoral registration apprentice. “Working for the Council was not what I expected. The idea of an office environment was intimidating to me but it’s completely different to what I expected,” said Chloe.

“The staff are very friendly and they have supported me in my role throughout the apprenticeship.”

David Jackson started as an apprentice in the revenues and benefits team. He got a full time position with the

Council within 6 months of his apprenticeship. He said: “Being an apprentice was a good opportunity to learn the role and gain a qualification while earning a salary. Working as an apprentice didn’t just teach me roles specific to the job but also skills I could take elsewhere.

I would recommend the apprentice scheme to people struggling to find work or just leaving school as it’s a good opportunity to get supported work experience and a qualification.”

## Load of Rubbish

Suffolk Coastal is one of the top performing Districts in the county when it comes to recycling waste. For the last three years people in this District have consistently recycled or composted over half their waste – cutting down on the need for costly landfill.

We can all play our part to help keep Suffolk Coastal part of a green and beautiful land!

### Textiles: Bag it, Tie it, Bin it !

All unwanted textiles and clothing can be recycled through Suffolk Coastal’s

textile recycling scheme.

Simply place the textiles in the textile recycling bag provided, tie it, and place it in the blue-lidded bin, on top of the other recyclables, and it will be collected for recycling and reuse.

### Plastics – Know Your Place !

Currently around half of all plastics that could easily be recycled, either through the blue-lidded bin or at one of the Household Waste Recycling Centres, ends up placed in the general rubbish bins and gets disposed of in landfill, at a cost of over £800,000 to the Council Tax Payers. Please see the guide below to see which household plastics can be recycled, and how.

Visit [www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/plastics/](http://www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/plastics/)

Recyclable at Home via the blue-lidded recycling bin	Recyclable at Household Waste Recycling Centres	Not Currently Recyclable
Washing & Cleaning Containers	Hard Plastic from home e.g. Dustpans	Polystyrene
Plastic Drinks Bottles	Hard Plastic from garden e.g. Watering Cans	Fruit Nets
Food Trays e.g. Butter Tubs	Plastic Toys	Blister Packs
Heath & Beauty Containers e.g. Shampoo Bottles	Carrier Bags & Plastic Bags	Crisps, Sweets & Biscuit Wrappers
Garden & Garage Containers		Pet Food Pouches

# Apply for Grants – Now!

Local community groups are being urged to apply for a cash boost – through the Suffolk Coastal grants scheme.

One of the ways Suffolk Coastal District Council works to enable and support local community groups is through the Revenue and Capital Grants Programme.

Since January 2007, the Council has awarded over £300,000 in capital grant aid alone to community and voluntary groups covering a wide variety of projects, from improving local amenities in Benhall and Marlesford to the provision of wellbeing opportunities for local residents living in Felixstowe and Darsham.

Recently, in September this year, the Council's Grants Task Group met and conditionally awarded over £25,000 capital grant aid to four projects.

Now, a further £124,000 is available in the next round of grants – and the Council is urging local groups to apply for funding.

“A key part of our Localism agenda is to enable and support local groups to take positive action to improve their communities,” said Cllr Doreen Savage, Cabinet member with responsibility for Customers and Communities.

The grant programmes are designed to provide financial assistance to projects that can make a real and positive difference to Suffolk.

“I would urge local groups to take advantage of this opportunity. They know what the burning issues are in their communities. The grants programme gives them the means to get local projects going which can really make a difference in their community.”

The third round of this year's Revenue and Capital Grants Programme is now open and organisations are invited to apply.

The Council has £65,000 available to invest in capital projects and £59,000 to support revenue-based projects.

There is no maximum value that groups can apply for under the revenue programme but groups are advised to identify the full cost of delivering the project when deciding how much grant aid they would like to apply for.

Under the capital programme grants are available up to 40 per cent of the entire capital cost of the project, to a maximum of £10,000.

The deadline for applications for both Revenue and Capital Grants is 29

November 2013.

For more information please contact Helen Johnson, Funding Officer on Helen.johnson@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or 01394 444721

Further information and application forms are available online at [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourCouncil/communitygrants/Councilgrants/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourCouncil/communitygrants/Councilgrants/)

Suffolk Coastal District Council is currently redesigning its community grant-making process to make it more streamlined and more user-friendly.

We will be consulting with partners, as well as the voluntary and community sector in November.

The new grant programmes will be launched in the New Year – so watch this space!

## Grant boosts Family Fun

Families and children found lots of hands-on fun and things to do at the Long Shop Museum this summer. Supported by a grant from Suffolk Coastal District Council, the museum in Leiston has developed new family-friendly activities and resources.



Suffolk Coastal [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

Holiday activities have included making balloon-powered cars and a 'Magnificent Machines' session with a chance to find out how a traction engine works, as well as junk-modelling and paper rockets!

There's also a new Family Welcome station with dressing-up clothes and tool-belts with a choice of tools to take around to explore the museum – from magnets to tape-measures.

And for younger children there's a new 'under 5s' corner including a workbench



and knitted Victorian-style dress-up dolls.

Interested in helping? The museum needs new volunteers to help with family activities, welcoming visitors,

and a range of other roles.

If you're interested, please contact Anna or Emma at [enquiries.longshop@gmail.com](mailto:enquiries.longshop@gmail.com) or 01728 832189

# Fly-tippers beware

Local people are being warned to beware of illegal fly-tippers – or face a £5,000 fine! Last year, fly-tipping cost the Council Tax payers of Suffolk £265,000 to clear up.

We all have a legal obligation to ensure that that all waste from our household is disposed of correctly. Failure to do so, could lead to you facing a £5,000 fine. By taking these necessary precautions, you can reduce the risk that rubbish from your home or business is dumped illegally.

**S Suspect.** Beware of rogue waste carriers who dump waste illegally. If in doubt do not allow them to take your waste.

**C Check.** Ask for their waste carrier registration details, and verify them by searching the Environment Agency's public register of waste carriers or by calling 08708 506 506. Also, note down the registration number of their vehicle.

**R Refuse** unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away. Always carry out your own research and choose who you wish to approach.

**A Ask questions.** Always ask what exactly is going to happen to your rubbish. A legitimate, professional waste carrier will not object to being asked reasonable questions.

**P Paperwork.** Make sure you get a proper invoice and receipt for your waste.

**Remember** - it is you that could face a fine of up to £5,000 if your waste ends up fly-tipped and you cannot demonstrate that you took reasonable steps to prevent it.

**Tip us off !**  
Suffolk Coastal will clear up and investigate any waste dumped on public land. If the waste is on private land, the landowner is responsible for clearing it, but Suffolk Coastal may



investigate where appropriate. To report an incident, please call 01394 444000, email [waste.management@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:waste.management@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk), or use the online reporting form [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/fly-tipping/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/fly-tipping/)

If you are aware of anyone who may be carrying waste unlawfully, or have any information about other illegal waste activities, please report it, in strictest confidence, to the Environment Agency's Incident Hotline on 0800 80 70 60, or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

**Don't get caught out**  
Recent changes to regula-

tions mean that anyone who transports waste will need to register as a waste carrier by January 2014. The Environment Agency have provided an online tool [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/143914.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/business/sectors/143914.aspx).

At the beginning of September, the Suffolk Waste Partnership led "Operation Tip Off", in which over 50 vehicles were stopped and searched by Council officers with the assistance of the police, Environment Agency, VOSA, and HMRC, and five of these are subject to ongoing investigations as a result.

## Warning to dog owners

Following a tip-off, another dog walker has paid the penalty for failing to clear up after their dog.

A man walking a dog in May failed to clear up after his dog fouled on a grass verge in Rendlesham.

This was reported to Suffolk Coastal Services, who traced the dog owner who paid a fixed penalty fine of £80.

Now Suffolk Coastal District

Council is repeating its warning to dog owners – clean up after your dog or face the consequences!

"Not only is dog waste left on the pavements, grass verges, beaches or any other area unpleasant, but it can also have serious health consequences particularly with small children who may come into contact with it," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

## Cut price compost

Home composting is the most environmentally friendly way of dealing with your garden waste, teabags and fresh fruit and vegetable scraps.

Composting at home eliminates the transport costs and emissions created sending waste for central treatment, as well as avoiding the methane produced from landfill. You will also know exactly what has gone into the

compost that you end up with.

To help you to get into the composting habit, home compost bins are available at subsidised prices to all residents of Suffolk, starting at £16.98 plus delivery - for details [www.suffolk.getcomposting.com/](http://www.suffolk.getcomposting.com/)

Water butts, worm composters, kitchen caddies and hot bins are also available through this scheme.

# Fit for the future

Suffolk Coastal District Council is looking for a partner to help get local people fit for the future.

The Council has just gone out to the market for a contractor to operate its leisure facilities for at least the next 15 years.

And, following an extensive procurement procedure, the Council is poised to appoint the successful contractor – and will make the announcement in early November.

“The contract we have with our current operator is due to expire next year. We carried out a competitive procurement process to ensure we get the best possible value for money, whilst also meeting the challenge of increasing participation in sport and improving the health and

fitness of local people,” said Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet Member for Leisure and Economic Development, Cllr Geoff Holdcroft.

“We worked with Sport England to attract an organisation which can help us shape our leisure facility strategy for the future. One of the challenges is to increase and modernise what we offer through our leisure facilities, whilst raising service standards and improving access to facilities for local people and visitors.”

One of the key elements to the successful bid was the ability to make significant savings on the existing contract – which will obviously have long-term benefits for the Suffolk Coastal Council Tax payers.

The successful contractor

will initially be responsible for operating our existing leisure facilities; Felixstowe Leisure Centre; Brackenbury Sports Centre; Deben Swimming Pool and Leiston Leisure Centre. There is also the potential for them to support the Council in developing other areas of its leisure portfolio in the future, in line with Suffolk Coastal’s Leisure Strategy.

The initial contract period is for a minimum of 15 years (reviewed in five year blocks) there will be an option of a further three five-year extensions, subject to satisfactory performance.

The contract could potentially run for the next 30 years and is estimated to be worth in the region of £25million over the full period.

## Powering To Charity Success

Felixstowe fitness fanatics swam and danced their way to charity success at a special marathon event recently.

One set of fund-raisers took to the water to do the St Elizabeth Hospice Channel Swim, while another group sweated their way through a Ceroc Dance Marathon. Olympic Champion Adrian Moorhouse attended the event to provide expert advice and support for those taking part.

The double challenge was run simultaneously at Felixstowe Leisure Centre in April. Swimmers aimed to complete 1,401 lengths – the equivalent distance as swimming the Channel – between 6pm and 7.30am. There were four teams, of 4 to 8 people, with the ‘Felixstowe Waves’ team completing the distance in the fastest time and being awarded the Griff Rogers Memorial Trophy.

But one hardy individual, Nick Rogers, completed the entire distance, while Katie Holmes managed over 1,000 lengths and Seamus Bennett over 800 lengths. And, while they were getting in deep water, about 85 dancers were dancing the night away in the Ceroc Dance Marathon, lead by Kieran Moore from Ceroc Fusion, from 8pm-6am.

However, the hard work and dedication was worth it – with the event raising £3,210.76 for St Elizabeth Hospice in Ipswich.

Emily Sheridan, St Elizabeth Hospice’s Community Fund-raiser, said: “Thank you to everyone who helped organise the event, the volunteers who helped on the day and to all those who took part. To raise over £3,000 is fantastic and that money will help us continue to provide local Hospice care to local people in East Suffolk and South Norfolk.”

St Elizabeth Hospice is an independent local charity which costs £8.7 million a year to run and relies on donations and fundraising events to meet the majority of its running costs.

**Fun & fitness for the whole family**  
Try something new today

Swimming	Gym
Badminton	Tennis
Trampoline	Squash
Group Exercise Classes	

**Contact us today!**

**Felixstowe Leisure Centre**  
Undercliff Road West, Sea Front  
01394 694600  
www.felixstoweleisurecentre.co.uk

**Brackenbury Sports Centre**  
High Road East, Felixstowe  
01394 270278  
www.brackenburysportscentre.co.uk

**Deben Pool**  
Station Road, Woodbridge  
01394 384763  
www.debenpool.co.uk

**Leiston Leisure Centre**  
Red House Lane, Leiston  
01728 830364  
www.leistonleisurecentre.co.uk

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter, visit our website.

**DC LEISURE**  
uk active Operator of the Year 2013

Terms and conditions apply.

Suffolk Coastal Leisure Community Association Ltd working in partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council.

## Life-saver

Hundreds of local school kids were faced with life-saving decisions – as part of the latest Crucial Crew event in the District. The popular event was organised by Suffolk Coastal's Community Safety Partnership at Stratford St Andrew's Riverside Centre over three days in early October.

This year's project was funded by the Suffolk Police and Crime Commissioner, Tim Passmore, and supported by partnership agencies including the Police, Fire Service, Red Cross, Suffolk County Council, The Matthew Project, Live Well Suffolk and Rotary volunteers.

"These are fantastic interactive events. They teach children how to tackle the personal dangers they may face in ordinary life and helps to prevent them from becoming involved in crime," explained Cllr Mary Neale, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Community Health.

"The scheme raises their awareness about safety issues in a fun and effective way, so that they are better equipped to deal with potentially dangerous situations, improving their own safety and the safety of others."

Crucial Crew is a national scheme aimed at Year 6 Pupils. Some 500 children from across Suffolk Coastal attended this year's event and took part in scenarios involving first aid, fire safety, personal safety, healthy eating, internet safety, road safety, anti-social behaviour and alcohol/drugs.

# Health and wellbeing

Suffolk Coastal is taking a leading role in trying to improve the health and wellbeing of local people.

The recent Government review of Health and Social Care resulted in each county being required to set up a Health and Wellbeing Board to encourage integrated working between Health, Social Care, Police, local authorities and other agencies to improve health and wellbeing of the community

The Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board has developed the four priority areas to focus its efforts on:

1. Every child in Suffolk has the best start in life;
2. Suffolk residents have access to a healthy environment and take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing;

3. Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life; and,
4. People in Suffolk have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing.

Suffolk Coastal is part of the Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board and is working closely with Suffolk County Council and local health services on this issue.

We contribute to improving health & wellbeing through a variety of services including:

- Environmental Health – food safety inspections; health & safety and environmental protection
- Licensing – assessing alcohol and entertainment licence applications
- Planning – ensuring appropriate built and natural environment
- Housing - strategic

planning for appropriate housing provision; housing benefits; grants for disabled facilities; warm homes scheme and a range of other housing support services

- Leisure – provision of wide range of amenities that contribute to public health & wellbeing
- Regeneration – focusing on economic development of the area to attract growth and jobs
- Democratic representation – local District Councillors represent Ward interests and represent their constituents in a wide range of issues. This could include considering health related matters at Council Scrutiny meetings

The Suffolk Coastal District Council representative for Community Health is Cllr Mary Neale.

## Good time to get active

It's a truly exciting time for the Active Communities Team, who are leading on the development of a Leisure Strategy for Suffolk Coastal.

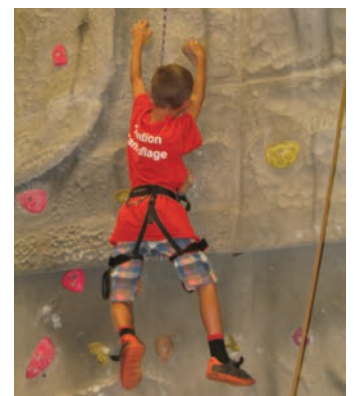
We aim to develop a strategy that shapes the future delivery of activity and improves the health and well-being of residents. Identification of the needs and wants of the communities is pivotal in the creation of this 10-year strategy, tying into the Localism agenda and the County's 'Most Active County' campaign.

If you are a club, community group or individual resident who have information that

could support the development of this strategy please contact the Active Communities Officer ([active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:active.communities@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)).

This summer, the Active Communities Team in partnership with the Army Welfare Office organised Operation Camouflage at Rock Barracks, near Woodbridge. The 3-day programme brought together young people between 8 and 16 years from different backgrounds and communities across Suffolk Coastal.

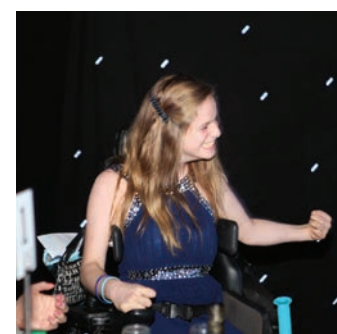
With planned activities that encouraged team building



and leadership skills, participants enjoyed a wide range of sessions including, high ropes, the climbing wall, survival and laser tag.

This was a great success for all involved - so here's to 2014!

# And the winners are....



An amazing dinner of Paella and Tapas was held to salute our 'unsung heroes' at the first Suffolk Coastal Community Awards ceremony.

Nearly 80 people were nominated for the various categories, with the list being narrowed down to 34 finalists by a team of judges.

Then, on Sunday, 6 October, a celebratory awards evening was held at Hungarian Hall, near Woodbridge, to announce the winners and

recognise the significant contributions of all the finalists to Suffolk Coastal communities.

"Reading through the nominations was an inspiring journey, from the people with the original idea of creating the country's smallest library in a disused phone box to those that have overcome serious disabilities to achieve great things," said Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member responsible for Leisure and Economic Development.

"There was everything in here, from those that give up their time to comfort and support others to clubs who are breaking new ground in community involvement, as well as volunteers who are going out to support the police and help to make our streets a safer place."

"We wanted to recognise extraordinary achievements of the 'ordinary people', from all walks of life, who put in hours of hard work throughout the year to help others in the community. This year's nominations certainly achieved that – it was a microcosm of what is so great about Suffolk Coastal. These are the people who help create the community spirit and quality of life that makes this District such a great place to live."

"The only sad thing is that we had to select 'winners' from this outstanding field of nominations. They are all worthy of recognition for their

commitment and selfless hard work and I would like to personally thank everyone who has taken part. This was one of those rare occasions where there are no losers, because their hard work means that our community is the winner overall."

Our thanks go to the headline sponsor haart estate agents ([www.haart.co.uk](http://www.haart.co.uk)) and to the category sponsors – Cory Brothers, DC Leisure, Suffolk Sport, Ridgeons, EDF Energy, Chater Homes, Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership, EB Carpets Felixstowe, Park Properties and Ufford Park.

Our thanks also go to Paella and Tapas, Woodbridge Wines, Parker Communications, Hungarian Hall and The Bridge Marketing for making the Awards a wonderful evening. Without their support, these awards would not happen.

All pictures © Simon Ballard

#### Suffolk Coastal Community Awards Winners 2013

**Sports Personality of the Year** – John Bidwell

**Young Sports Personality of the Year** - Holly Goodwyn

**Club of the Year** - Framlingham Flyers

**Team of the Year** - Gorseland Primary School KS2

**Making the Community Safer** - Woodbridge and Felixstowe Town Pastors

**Innovative Local Idea** - Potsford Farm

**Partnership** - Rural Coffee Caravan

**Inspiration** - Julian Evans

**Lifetime Achievement** - Mary Morris

**Volunteer of the Year** - Rita Bird

**Outstanding Contribution** - Graham Shemmings

**Young Person Award** - Alex Poole

# National award for Felixstowe man

A project inspiring young people to get involved with sport, set up by partners including Suffolk Coastal, has led to a national award for one young man from Felixstowe.

Adam French was presented with the award for National Sportivate Participant of the Year by Sport England at the House of Commons during the summer after his participation in the Be Inspired project, a project partnership between Suffolk Sport, Felixstowe Job Centre Plus and Suffolk Coastal District Council.

The project was specifically set up to support young people aged between 19-24 who are not in employment, education or training (NEETs).

Adam completed the pilot leadership and fitness programme and is now employed at Brackenbury Sport Centre as well as volunteering at various sports clubs across Felixstowe.

Adam said: "I have always had an interest in sport but didn't have the opportunity to play. This course gave

me the chance to develop my knowledge, skills and confidence in sport, which has directly helped me to find a job."

Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Cabinet Member for Leisure and Economic Development, praised the efforts of those involved in the project, "It is great to boost the prospects for young people that are struggling to find a break and encouraging them to achieve, whether it's finding them a job or gaining qualifications, and sport is a great way to raise their spirits."



Adam French

## Christmas and New Year Opening Times

	Mon 23rd Dec	Tues 24th Dec	Wed 25th & Thurs 26th Dec	Fri 27th Dec	Mon 30th Dec	Tues 31st Dec	Wed 1st Jan	Thurs 2nd Jan
Woodbridge Melton Hill	Office open normal hours	Open to public 9am to 3pm	Office closed Bank Holiday	Open to public 9am to 4pm	Not open to public	Not open to public	Office closed Bank Holiday	Office open normal hours
Woodbridge Library	Office open normal hours	Library closed	Office closed Bank Holiday	Office closed	Office open to public 10am to 4pm	Office open 9.30am to 3.30pm	Office closed Bank Holiday	Office open normal hours
Felixstowe Undercliffe Road	Open to public 9am to 2pm	Office closed	Office closed Bank Holiday	Office closed	Open to public 9am to 2pm	Office closed	Office closed Bank Holiday	Open to public 9am to 2pm (additional day)



## Contact Information

**Website:** [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

For **general enquiries** contact our **Customer Services team:**

Telephone: **01394 383789.**

Email: [customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

**Text Relay Service** contact **01394 444211.**

### Customer Service Centre & Tourist Information - Woodbridge Library

A new customer services centre and Tourist Information for Suffolk Coastal based in Woodbridge Library opened in March 2013. Opening times are:

- **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**

**Woodbridge Library, New Street, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1DT**

Telephone: **01394 444400.**

Email: [customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:customerservices@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

### Melton Hill reception and main switchboard:

The reception and main switchboard at our Melton Hill Headquarters in Woodbridge are open from: Monday to Wednesday 8.45am - 5pm, Thursdays 9.30am - 5.30pm, Fridays 8.45am - 4.30pm

**Suffolk Coastal District Council, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, Suffolk IP12 1AU.**

### Felixstowe

We also have an office in Felixstowe, which deals with housing and benefits enquiries:

- **Benefits enquiries:** Mondays & Wednesdays 9.00am - 12.30pm and 2.00pm - 4.30pm.
- **Housing surgery:** Monday & Wednesdays 2.00pm to 4.30pm.
- **Felixstowe Citizens Advice Bureau:** drop in session, Mondays 9.30am - 11am.

**Suffolk Coastal District Council, 93 Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe IP11 2AF.**

### Specific Enquiries:

For Housing Benefit and Local Council Tax Reduction enquiries:

Telephone: **01394 444838**

Email: [benefits@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:benefits@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

For **planning advice** see: [www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/devcontrol/contacts/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/devcontrol/contacts/)

For refuse collection and recycling enquiries contact

**Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd**

Telephone: **01394 444000.**

Email: [scs ltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:scs ltd@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

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

Telephone: **01394 614933.**

Email: [port.health@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk](mailto:port.health@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk)

Website: [www.porthealth.eu](http://www.porthealth.eu)

### Tourist Information centres

Aldeburgh 01728 453637

Felixstowe 01394 276770

### Leisure Centres (managed by DC Leisure)

Felixstowe 01394 670411

Brackenbury 01394 270278

Leiston 01728 830364

Deben Pool 01394 38476

### Emergencies outside of office hours

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