

Building for the future of Felixstowe - see page 14



Council Tax frozen but budgeting for growth and prosperity

Despite freezing its Council Tax for a third successive year and achieving £5.4 million of efficiencies in three years since 2010, Suffolk Coastal is geared to promoting growth and prosperity in the district.

February's Full Council meeting agreed to keep Suffolk Coastal's Council Tax at £149.40 for a Band D home, which will generate £6.9 million towards its budget of £12.7 million for 2013/14. Its Council Tax income from residents will be over £500,000 less than last year, and its net budget requirement £300,000 lower.

"The pressures on our spending plans because of falling Government grants, lower income because of the general economic climate and increasing demands for our services as our population grows means we

had to bridge a budget gap of £1 million this year, on top of the £2.1 million we saved in 2012/13," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"We have achieved this considerable feat by taking some tough decisions in recent months but the key priority services that our residents want have been protected. We also know we will have to find a further £4.3 million savings by March 2017.

"However, the strength of our local economy and our success in helping it grow does give us the opportunity to be more optimistic than most and we do plan to invest to succeed, by supporting projects and initiatives that will help our communities grow and prosper," added Cllr Herring.

inside your coastline

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

Call 01394 444361

To stay informed all year, read the new monthly eCoastline - just email news@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Further details on these stories can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

For details of Easter activities on in the district including building a bear, or an animated film, cupcakes or cycling, visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourfreetime/easter

Benjamin Britten's centenary is being marked by 2,000 events in 39 countries! The Britten Trail in Aldeburgh opens soon and his home The Red House in June. Visit www.britten100.org for full details.

Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd will be working as normal on Good Friday, March 29 and the Bank Holiday Monday, April 1 so please put out all your recycling and refuse as usual.

News

Do not contaminate your food rating

Advice to food businesses on how to ensure they maintain their food hygiene ratings as high as possible has been highlighted again by food safety officers pointing out guidance from the national Food Standards Agency (FSA) clarifying how to control the risk of food contamination, particularly from E. coli 0157.

"We have been advising those food businesses that the FSA's guidance was most likely to affect and held special sessions in Lowestoft and Woodbridge. The vast majority of the 1,100 food

businesses in our district are currently in the top two ratings of the food hygiene rating scheme and our teams are ready to help them maintain or improve their position," said Councillor Mary Neale, Cabinet Member for Community Health.

Any food business that handles raw foods such as meat, and/or vegetables that may be contaminated with soil, should visit <http://tinyurl.com/ecoliguide> for more information or call the Food and Safety team on 01394 444357.

County Council elections on May 2

Nominations for candidates are due to open on March 21 and will close on April 5. New applications to join the elector register to be able to vote, or to apply for a postal vote must be submitted by 5pm on April 17. The closing

date for any new application to vote by proxy is April 24.

For more details visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/elections/districtcounty/ or the elections team on 01394 444329.

Link up to cut your energy bills by up to £200

Residents across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have until Monday, April 8 to save up to £200 a year on their energy bills by linking up with their district council to join a collective energy switching scheme.

Over 600 residents from our two district have already joined 20,000 other across the country. Just visit www.readytoswitch.co.uk and register your interest in cutting your energy bills.

"The power of this partnership will make energy companies compete to offer us the best possible deal and create real savings at a time of genuine need. We have worked hard to keep our Council Tax bills as low as possible and this scheme offers another real boost," said Councillor T-J Haworth, Cabinet Member for Housing.

The simple scheme brings together households to join forces to negotiate cheaper energy bills with Ready to Switch doing all the work for them. Registration is easy and there is no obligation to actually sign up to any deal. Twelve councils have linked up in response to rising energy prices and the increasing numbers of households in fuel poverty. The scheme is the first in the UK to allow residents who use pre-payment meters to register.

Anyone who registers their details will be told what their new lower energy rate could be and asked if they wish to agree the price and join up. The simplest way to sign up is online. However, anyone wishing to register who has any further questions about the scheme can call a freephone helpline number: 0800 088 5007.



Suffolk Coastal District Council
Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU
www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk
Fax: 01394 385100
Minicom: 01394 444211
Email: scdc@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

Emergencies outside office hours:
01502 527133
(shared with Waveney)

Planning Advice - www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/your-new-improved-planning-service

Council Tax 01394 444855
Housing Benefits 01394 444838
Business Rates 01394 444544
Port Health 01394 614933
General Enquiries 01394 383789

Office Hours

Monday to Thursday* 8.45am - 5.15pm
Friday 8.45am - 4.45pm
* doors open at 9.30am on Wednesdays

Refuse and Recycling 01394 444000

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

Tourist Information Centres

Aldeburgh 01728 453637
Felixstowe 01394 276770
Woodbridge **New number in April**
Leisure Centres (managed by DC Leisure)
Felixstowe 01394 670411
Brackenburg 01394 270278
Leiston 01728 830364
Deben Pool 01394 384763

Asset transfer

The ownership of an allotment site has been transferred from Suffolk Coastal to Alderton Parish Council with a legal requirement that for the foreseeable future it be retained for people to use as allotments.

Better town centres

Three partnerships working to improve town centres in Woodbridge, Felixstowe, and the four towns of Aldeburgh, Framlingham, Leiston and Saxmundham have each won £10,000 from the Government's Town Team Partner initiative.

Help us prevent homelessness

Your Council is developing a new Homelessness Strategy to tackle housing need and homelessness and we want to know what you think our priorities should be and what we should be doing to help those who need it.

Suffolk Coastal has successfully reduced the numbers needing temporary bed and breakfast accommodation by working hard to prevent homelessness before it happens. Keep an eye on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/housing/homelessness.

Council votes to cut its size by 12 councillors as review begins

An independent expert body reviewing the size of Suffolk Coastal District Council is being recommended to trim the number of councillors from 55 to 43, after February's Full Council backed a move that could save up to £100,000 a year.

A Further Electoral Review is being conducted by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England (LGBCE) to achieve electoral equality across the district, so that each councillor is representing roughly the same number of electors.

"We asked the LGBCE to also look at the case for trimming the number of councillors because we have modernised our Council in recent years, streamlining our spending, management, staffing, committees and decision-making structures. It seemed appropriate to also review if we now had too many councillors," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"I am proud that the majority could see the logic of putting in place a more business-like structure that could maintain and probably strengthen the links between councillors and their constituents. It once again shows we are ready to take tough decisions to make us more efficient and effective, as well as saving



The Scrutiny Committee may have a smaller council to review

money. However, ours is only a recommendation, and the LGBCE will be consulting widely and involving the public in shaping the future look of their Council," added Cllr Herring.

The issue was debated at great length with proposals of 48 and 45 councillors failing to win sufficient support.

The review is broken down into three phases, with the first considering how many councillors there should be, before moving on to look at appropriate warding patterns, how many wards and what they should be called.

The LGBCE will in April decide how many councillors it thinks the district should have and then carry out its first public consultation, currently scheduled for

between April 23 and June 3, before seeking views during the summer and autumn about warding patterns. It will publish its draft recommendations in February 2014 which will also be subject to public consultation between February and April 2014.

To keep in touch with the LGBCE's Review either visit its website www.lgbce.org.uk or Suffolk Coastal's www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/wardreview where relevant information will be added when available.

The LGBCE review was initially triggered because the ratio of councillor to electors is so uneven in Suffolk Coastal. This is most acute in Kesgrave East and Rendlesham, where the councillors currently represent 40 per cent over the district average.

Housing services in district under review

Members of Suffolk Coastal's Scrutiny Committee are carrying out an in-depth investigation into housing in the district and have received many complaints about the way some social rented housing providers are operating in the district.

Last November the Committee heard from a large number of town and parish councils, district councillors and tenants about their concerns about housing and specifically some social landlords.

"We want to carry out a wide-ranging and in-depth investigation of the housing issues facing this district, and after hearing from all the key organisations including housing providers, developers and voluntary sector partners we aim to produce a comprehensive and conclusive report that will go to the heart of many of the reported concerns but also identify solutions," said Councillor Phillip Dunnett, Chairman of the Scrutiny Committee.

The first March meeting (pictured above left) quizzed a range of local partners with a commitment to increasing the supply of affordable housing in the district.

fraudster tagged

A Woodbridge woman has been tagged, gained a criminal record and has to repay over £7,000 of fraudulently claimed benefits after she failed to inform the Council of a divorce settlement she had received worth over £50,000.

Lynette Game, 58, of Gonville Close and formerly of Farlingayes, was sentenced at the Magistrates Court in Ipswich in February to a three months indoor curfew from 9pm to 6am and will be fitted with an electronic tag. Any breach of her curfew and she will be taken back before the Magistrates.

“In this particular case the woman concerned was initially eligible for support. She was visited by one of our benefits officers a few weeks later and signed a statement saying that she had no money from her divorce. In fact, on that very day her bank statements, later obtained during the investigation, show a withdrawal of nearly £13,000 to buy a car,” said Siobhan Martin, Suffolk Coastal’s Audit Partnership Manager.

“This case should be another stark warning to anyone foolish enough to consider trying to cheat the benefits system. We are committed to rooting out all benefit fraud, taking court action where appropriate and reclaiming what has been paid out,” added Mrs Martin.

Suffolk Coastal’s Fraud Hotline for residents to call confidentially 24/7 is 01394 444444, or email fraud.investigation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk. For those who want help on claiming benefits call 01394 444838 or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/benefits/.

Need help to pay your Council Tax?

A new Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) has been introduced after the Government passed all the responsibility for managing Council Tax benefits to local councils and reduced its funding by 10 per cent.

ALL State pensioners will continue to get the same level of support under the new LCTRS as before. All those of working age who qualify for assistance to pay their Council Tax will now be paying 8.5 per cent more, and everyone will pay at least 8.5 per cent of their Council Tax bill.

In short the new scheme means that

- the maximum reduction will be 91.5 per cent of the due Council Tax bill (currently 100 per cent) for all working age claimants except for those receiving war or war widows pensions (it will remain at 100 per cent for war pensioners);
- elements of War and war widows pensions will be disregarded in full
- beneficial changes in circumstances will not be backdated so please tell us as soon as your circumstances change -

as you are legally required to if you are in receipt of LCTRS or any benefit; and

- upon further application additional support can be considered where otherwise “exceptional hardship” would be caused.

Full information about the replacement for Council Tax benefits and who can still qualify for LCTRS can be found online at www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/counciltaxbenefits or you can call 01394 444838.

New size criteria could affect your housing benefit

From April 2013 if you are a housing association tenant then the amount of housing benefit you receive will depend on how many bedrooms you need compared to the number you have.

The changes will not affect you if you or your partner are old enough to claim pension credits.

The new rules say you need a bedroom for each of the following:

- each adult couple, any other person aged 16 or over, two children under the age of 16, any other

child, or a carer (who does not normally live with you) if you or your partner need overnight care.

- If you have a bedroom or bedrooms used for any other purpose then the reduction in benefit will affect you. If you have one spare room then the rent used to calculate your entitlement will be reduced by 14% and if you have two or more spare bedrooms by 25%.

If you think you are affected by this change then you should contact your housing officer immediately.

Benefit cap coming September

The Government is introducing at the end of September 2013 a new cap on the total amount of welfare benefits that can be claimed by people of working age.

This will mean people of working age will have limits on the benefits they can receive of £500 per week for couples (with or without children), and for single parents, and a limit of £350 per week for individuals without children.

The cap will not apply if you or your partner receive one or more of the following; working tax credit, disability living allowance, attendance allowance, the support component of employment and support allowance, Industrial injuries benefit or, war widows/widowers pension

It could not be easier to keep informed

Just email news@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

For those without home computers, our monthly eCoastline update will also be available from libraries, town and parish councils or council offices, and to all those on our blind or partially-sighted mailing list (see page 1)

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The Government has reduced the Council's spending power by £1,025,000, or nearly seven per cent but the Council's continuing hard work in helping foster its local economy will at last be rewarded by the Government's new business rate retention scheme which could see Suffolk Coastal benefiting by nearly £2.7m in 2013/14.



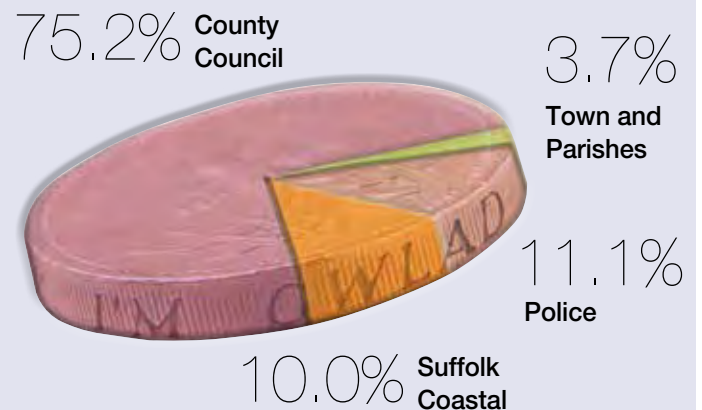
Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal

"The new scheme recognises that our district is the economic powerhouse of our county, and that we really do pack a Suffolk punch when it comes to growth and jobs. There are also new risks and uncertainties with the new scheme but it could also give us more ability to help our communities attract the new jobs and homes that our young people desperately need and so make our district even

stronger in the future. But this is not guaranteed money so we must be careful how we use it, concentrating on developing and safeguarding our district's future as bitter experience teaches us there are no guarantees how long it will be there.

"We have pioneered shared working with Waveney, which has driven down our two Councils' costs by over £7m, while still protecting the

Where your Council Tax goes



The average Band D bill in the district is **£1,498.06**, which is made up of:

- Suffolk County Council **£1,126.53**
- Police & Crime Commissioner for Suffolk **£166.77**
- Suffolk Coastal District Council **£149.40**
- Average for Town & Parishes **£55.36** (ranging from £0.00 - £129.08)

key priority services that our communities want. These remain tough times and we have to continue our drive

to ensure we are working as efficiently and business-like as possible," added Cllr Herring.

Unique partnership extended for company at heart of local services

The highly successful partnership has been extended between Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd (SCS Ltd.) and the Council for the provision of key local value for money services to residents across the district. Since August 2004, SCS Ltd has played a large part in Suffolk Coastal's success in delivering over £10m of savings, with the Council and its communities having benefited by over £4m from this pioneering partnership.

"Since we set up this joint venture partnership, it has quickly established itself as a model for other councils to follow because of its proven track record of delivering savings and even better services. It has been a continuing win-win

for our communities and to maximise its future potential we believe that an extended long-term contract is the right way forward," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

"We are sure that SCS can continue to deliver value for money services over the coming years, and I can equally reassure our communities that we have in place the management procedures to ensure that they continue to deliver the high quality services that we demand of them," added Cllr Herring.

SCS was set up with Norse Commercial Services (NCS), which itself was set up by Norfolk County Council. The NCS approach of



Councillor Ray Herring and Peter Hawes of NCS sign new contract

combining the best of the public service ethos and low overheads with the business sector goals of taking risks to deliver results has been hugely successful.

SCS currently manage a range of functions that include refuse and recycling, trade waste,

facilities management and property services, building maintenance, cleaning and caretaking, street cleaning, maintenance of parks, gardens, open spaces, play areas, trees, cemeteries, closed churchyards and sports grounds, vehicle maintenance, and car park management.

Some of our achievements in 2012/13

- Review of size of Council is underway to make us more efficient and effective. >>>> 3
- Our food safety team has been protecting people from unfit food and poor hygiene standards. >>> 2
- Part of the shadow board that created the new county wide strategy to improve community health and wellbeing.



- Thanks to partnership with other councils the Tour of Britain cycled through many of the district's towns and villages.
- Worked with local tourism businesses to help them set up The Suffolk Coast Ltd Destination Management Organisation to boost the area as a visitor destination.
- Working with the Government and others means that those committing fraud by falsely claiming benefits are more likely to be caught. >>> 4
- Organised the elections across the county for Suffolk's first Police and Crime Commissioner.

- Successfully managed the Council's medium term financial strategy so we could freeze the Council Tax for a third successive year. >>>> 1
- Achieved £2.1 million of savings in 2012/13 and identified a further £1,000,000 for 2013/14 to ensure the Council achieved a balanced budget. >>>> 1
- Audit Commission's review of the Council praised its "proper arrangements to secure economy, efficiency and effectiveness"
- As part of our commitment to improved services a new customer service centre opens in Woodbridge library, which will also offer tourist information. >>>> 15
- Agreed first joint environmental policy with Waveney to make our districts even greener. >>>> 12
- Transferring or marketing community assets across the district.
- Our district's economy recognised and rewarded by Government as being powerhouse of the county.
- Worked with County to maximise the community's benefits of Sizewell C and to ensure their voice is heard. >>>> 11
- Linked up with 10 other councils so our residents can sign up for cheaper home energy bills. >>>> 2

- We have been working with town and parish councils and developers to increase the number of new affordable homes in our district. >>>> 3
- Worked with Rendlesham Parish Council on the district's first Neighbourhood Planning initiative that will create a planning vision for Rendlesham's future.
- An action plan for reducing air pollution around the Port of Felixstowe has been successful and also gained Government approval. We will soon be consulting about this and one for the district.
- Took to a Public Examination our Core Strategy that sets out how the district can grow and protect its unique environment and we are now waiting for its approval. >>>> 13
- In three years our business energy advice service helped identify potential annual savings of almost £700,000 for 146 businesses.
- The partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney is set reduce costs by £6.4million, with £1.5m alone in 2012/13.
- Residents can now have their textiles collected from home, saving tonnes going to landfill and cutting collection costs.
- Planning services at Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have been

shared to deliver a modern, efficient and customer focused service that is also helping to save over £800,000. >>>> 12

- Residents calling for a properly planned redevelopment of Woodbridge's key former Whisstocks boatyard site won the backing again of Suffolk Coastal. >>>> 13
- Activities across the district were organised for children during the summer holidays.
- The Queen's Diamond Jubilee was celebrated at community events across the district.
- An advisory panel was set up to help plan the future environmental management of Sutton Heath.
- The £20m regeneration of Felixstowe's South Seafront got underway with new homes and leisure facilities being built. >>>> 14



- Crowds estimated at nearly half the district's population greeted the Olympic Torch as it made its way through eight of Suffolk Coastal's town and villages.



The Felixstowe Central coastal defence scheme won a prestigious Green Apple award for its reuse of materials

- A new contract has extended the highly successful partnership between Suffolk Coastal Services Ltd and the Council for services such as recycling and refuse collection which has resulted in over £4m of savings since August 2004. >>> 5
- Thanks to a partnership involving the Council a new website www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk has all the information about the town and resort.
- Providing outstanding services around the clock is at the heart of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney's 'Joint Customer Access Strategy'. >>> 15
- Residents were asked to back changes coming in this April to cut the amount of Council Tax benefit given to people of working age and also making owners of empty or second homes pay more. >>> 4
- Suffolk Coastal and Waveney helped secured £338,524 of European funding so small and medium businesses in the rural coastal areas can save money by becoming more energy efficient. >>> 12
- The sixth annual Suffolk Coastal Sport Awards ceremony saw nine winners on a night which was a celebration of achievement and commitment from across the district. >>> 16
- The efforts being made by people to help conserve historic buildings or the local landscape or nature, or introducing new innovative designs was celebrated at the Quality of Place awards. >>> 13
- The Suffolk Coastal Disability Forum was launched to give disabled people a better voice in how local services are provided. >>> 15
- Three of the district's partnerships that are working to improve their town centres each won £10,000 from the Government's Town Team Partner initiative towards local projects.
- The Heritage Lottery Fund backed works to restore Felixstowe's Seafront Gardens have seen contractors recruited.
- Thanks to the close partnership between Suffolk Coastal and the Environment Agency, four more flood gates are being left open during winter, making it even easier to walk along the prom.
- Plans to create a modern complex to replace the existing Felixstowe Pier were given approval by Suffolk Coastal in the first important step to regenerating this key part of the resort. >>> 13
- Residents across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney could now save as much as £200 a year on their energy bills by linking up with their district council to join the UK's largest collective energy switching scheme. >>> 2
- The importance of providing local career opportunities to young people has seen Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils renew their commitment to offer apprenticeships. >>> 15
- Events were held up and down the Suffolk Coast to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the great flood of January 31, 1953 which claimed over 50 lives in Suffolk. >>> 16
- Volunteers have been helping tidy the district's wildlife areas enhancing even further the quality of the local countryside. >>> 16

>>> 3 - this indicates the page where further information can be found.

10 years of making a difference

The Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership comes to an end in March this year after bringing together key organisations to tackle some of the priorities of the district's communities.

On these two pages you can read about some of its recent successes and page 10 about the new partnership that will keep its work going.



Guy Ackers, Chairman of the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey and David Barker MBE, Chairman of Suffolk Creating the Greenest County examining a hedgerow

Focus on the green millennium Guy

There are very few of us who can claim to have left a lasting legacy for years to come, but the Greenprint Forum recently put the spotlight firmly on Guy Ackers, someone who really has thanks to his efforts over the last 13 years and who turned the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey into a personal crusade.

"Thanks to Guy's inspiring efforts, an army of 2,400 volunteers across the county took part in creating a document which will have a shelf life of at least 50 years and is proving invaluable to planners, landowners, parish councils and environmental groups," said Andrew Cassy, Board member of the Suffolk

Coastal Local Strategic Partnership (SCLSP).

"The survey was initially launched by the Greenprint Forum in Suffolk Coastal to record the location of every landscape hedgerow with every different species of trees and shrubs. Very soon as the project gathered pace, and expanded to cover the whole of Suffolk. None of this would have been possible without Guy's commitment and his talent to recruit and enthuse volunteers," added Mr Cassy.

Visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/greenprint/hedgerows for more information about the Suffolk Hedgerow Survey and other Greenprint initiatives.



Resolve to help your community

A new online guide to all the help and advice on offer to voluntary and community groups and volunteers in Suffolk Coastal has been produced by the district's expert network.

In the last four years, the Suffolk Coastal Resource Network (SCRN) has helped local groups attract over £1.7 million of funding and given advice to over 400 groups. Its new directory of resources can be seen on www.scrn.co.uk/about-scrn/directory-of-resources.html

"The SCRN is a network of organisations in Suffolk Coastal that work together to provide services for voluntary and community groups. Most of the services offered are free of charge and only a phone call or email away," said Dr Wil Gibson, Vice-Chairman of the SCLSP Board.

The SCRN was set up with the backing of the LSP and groups looking for help with funding can contact Christine Abraham on 01473 275195 or 07771 932544 or email Coastal@savo.co.uk.

It also supports the volunteer brokerage scheme – any organisation looking for volunteers, or anyone thinking of becoming a volunteer can contact

Carolyn Shaw at Volunteer Suffolk Coastal on 01473 261116 or email volunteer@ipswich-cvs.org.uk or Jan Wright at Framlingham & District Volunteer Centre on 01728 621210 or email framvc@btconnect.com

Get the community growing bug in Leiston

Anyone in Leiston who wants to grow their own food and join in an exciting local community project should make their way to the town's community centre in King George Avenue on the first Saturday of every month, from 10.30am to 3pm.

"The Leiston Community Allotment is another one of the increasing number of local projects where people are coming together to meet a need in their area and so make a real difference. This grass-roots initiative is helping people come together to learn new skills and harvest the results of their labours," said Andrew Cassy, Board member of the Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership.

The project has been made possible by the support of Leiston Town Council, Suffolk Coastal District Council, along with the Suffolk Coastal LSP and the Low Carbon Coastal Market Towns initiative. For more information contact Eastfeast on 01728 454532.

Want to change things?

The Change Makers project has been running in Suffolk Coastal for over a year and is there to provide support and guidance to local people who want to make a difference in their community.

Campaign coordinator Gillian Benjamin can help people turn their big idea into reality and so add a little extra to the local quality of life. The aim is to help people make the sort of connections that will enable them to develop their idea and provide help with any training, skills and facilities that may be needed.

It could include setting up a club or group, or organising an activity, learning or teaching new skills, or just generally helping people in the local community.

“The campaign has so far proved to be a great success. It has supported groups across our district, giving a timely boost to our increasingly important voluntary and community

sector. We would welcome individuals who have an idea to come forward and become Change Makers, making our district an even better place to live,” said Dr Wil Gibson, Vice-Chair of the Suffolk Coastal LSP.

Call Gillian Benjamin on 07889 707851 or email Gillian@change-maker.org.uk or write to Suffolk ACRE, Brightspace, 160 Hadleigh Road, Ipswich IP2 0HH.

Log cabin offers door to future

A log cabin will celebrate its first year in April of helping local young people to improve both their skills and life opportunities through the Felixstowe Homeless Young People project, supported by the SCLSP.

“There were real concerns about the problems facing young homeless people, some of which included the lack of opportunities to take part in education or training courses. The homeless project has been doing a



The Felixstowe log cabin officially opened by Councillor Savage

really great job, but it was clear that they needed more room and putting a log cabin in the garden was identified as a quick and achievable solution,” said Sally Hogg of NHS Suffolk and SCLSP Board member.

The SCLSP backed the scheme with £12,000 which has helped fund a “fairy job person” to help the young people identify their own personal needs and target where the necessary support or resources are available, as well as transport, learning

materials and other running costs.

The commitment by the SCLSP to improving the life and career prospects of local young people has also seen it back a skills project which is working with local JobCentre Plus offices to offer help at Leiston, Woodbridge and Felixstowe on preparing a CV, interview techniques and job search skills. For more information call Ready4Work on 0845 519 9083 or visit www.ready4work.org.

Networking across the generations

A new project has seen young people link up with some of our older residents so they can all get the hang of computers.

The Silver Surfers has been running weekly sessions at Woodbridge and Kyson and Cedarwood, Kesgrave primary schools, and recently launched at Trimley St Mary, whose head Christina Ashford says it has been a great success.

“It really has been lovely. We have had 14 regular senior citizens attending with nine of our year six children giving

up 45 minutes of their lunch break on Mondays to work with them.

“The children have been showing how to use the basic but often confusing mechanics of a computer, such as using a mouse, and how to set up an email account, do online shopping, Google Maps and so many other things.

“It has really enthused and helped our older ‘students’ but it has also been excellent for our children who have gained confidence as well as communication skills,

while enjoying being able to help and learn with people so much older than them,” added Mrs Ashford. Anyone wanting more

information about the Silver Surfers scheme or to try and join one of the sessions can contact Gavin Lodge from AgeUK on 01473 298686.



Children from Woodbridge Primary School help the silver surfers



Working for east Suffolk

The new partnership working to make east Suffolk even better has agreed its key priorities as it takes on its role of promoting and improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area.

The East Suffolk Partnership replaces the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Strategic Partnerships from the end of March, and has a 15 strong Board including the Leaders of Suffolk Coastal, Waveney and Suffolk County Councils. "This is an important step

forward that will bring real long-term benefits to our communities. With the involvement of vital partners from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, the ESP will be a key player in achieving the improved quality of life our districts want," said Councillor Colin Law, Leader of Waveney District Council and Chairman of the ESP Board.

The five core themes of the ESP are to build on economic prosperity, growth and

infrastructure development; ensuring people have the skills to meet employment opportunities; encouraging a growing, ageing population to be healthy and live well; building strong communities and reducing inequalities in health, housing, and crime; and supporting sustainable activities linked to the environment.

In 2013 this will see a number of key priorities that the ESP Board want to focus on, which includes using its collective influence to encourage East Suffolk's residents to get more and better skills, while also finding out direct from businesses what it is they need to help make the local economy stronger and more locally linked to local suppliers.

Other tasks for this year includes taking early action to stop young people in particular not becoming someone who is neither in work, education or training,

and building up the links between education providers and employers so young people can gain the skills needed to fill local jobs.

Older people will also be focussed on, with work to find out what they want to make their lives fuller and more active, particularly those that would involve them more with younger generations, while also improving the community support they and their carers may need.

A workshop has already been held looking at what are the factors that are causing inequalities across the two districts and why some areas are more likely to have higher rates of unemployment, poor health, or lack of affordable housing. The ESP will also look to promote the wide range of activities on offer for both residents and visitors of the area. For more information visit www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk.



Some of the ESP Board with Councillor Law front centre.

Changing places to increase knowledge

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney had a new Chief Executive when Stephen Baker swapped his normal Lowestoft and Woodbridge offices for Leiston's Citizens Advice Bureau with Nick Mayo filling his role for one day in February.

"The CABx in our districts have a key role to play and are at the sharp end of dealing with many of the problems and issues facing their communities. This was an excellent opportunity to see a bigger

picture, which will help me in planning for local needs in both Councils but also with the wide range of partners who are providing services in the two districts," said Stephen Baker.

"The day gave both me and Stephen a far more detailed insight to what both our organisations are doing on a daily basis. The meetings that I chaired as the acting Chief Executive gave me an understanding of exactly what the Council is involved in which is far more than



Our three strategic directors with Nick Mayo, second right

just providing local services. I hope that my input from someone with an outside

perspective was as useful for the officers as the day was for me," said Nick Mayo.

Councils demand real benefits for our communities

Conditional support was given in February to proposals to build a new Sizewell C power station but Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet is also insisting that its development must bring real benefits to all its district's communities.

EDF Energy has submitted initial proposals to build a new power station, the decision on which will be made by the Government, but is asking for views as part of the formal consultation process.

Because of the scale and importance of Sizewell C, Suffolk Coastal worked with Suffolk County Council to agree a joint response that reflect the views and needs of local communities.

"This project would mean a major investment in our district and result in thousands of new jobs, and we support Sizewell C in principle. However, our joint approach with the County is to maximise its possible benefits while minimising any potential negative impacts," said Councillor Andy Smith, Council Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Planning.

"This is a golden opportunity for EDF to put in place measures that will help preserve our unique environment and power the drive for more local jobs and better infrastructure and transport services. We will insist that EDF fully takes on its role in making our district and Suffolk an even better place to live, work or play. All in all, EDF has a lot to do in order to get our unconditional



Sizewell C must blend in even better with the local environment than Sizewell B

backing or the support of all the communities that it will be becoming a key part of," added Cllr Smith.

"We have to ensure that the unique landscape and ecology around Sizewell and beyond are not threatened. Any development must be of the highest possible quality of design, commensurate with that of the 'B' station, and the use of land has to keep to an absolute minimum as this is at the very heart of our district's unique environment. EDF must recognise its duty to protect as much of it as possible," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The councils want to ensure a significant infrastructure legacy, including an A12 bypass, is delivered during the construction and operation of the power station, and that agreement is reached on a long-term community benefits package.

At the peak of the up to nine years construction period, the site workforce would be about 5,600 people,

while during the operational phase of probably 60 years there would be about 900 permanent jobs available.

"The potential economic benefits are obvious and we would want to make sure our communities and particularly their younger generations are in pole position to make the most of them, by helping them have the necessary skills. But there are many other issues that have to be

addressed as well," said Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Leisure.

The second stage of EDF's consultation will provide greater detail and it is anticipated that this will take place during 2014. For more information about the two Councils' work on Sizewell C, visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/policy/sizewell/

Have your say on new Sizewell emergency arrangements

The Suffolk Resilience Forum is asking residents to have their say by Monday, April 8 on proposed changes to existing emergency planning arrangements at Sizewell power station.

A major part of the review involves listening to the views of residents who live within the immediate detailed emergency planning zone - now proposed at up to 4kms from the Sizewell site - and those who live within the wider precautionary planning zone of up to 15kms from the site.

You can review the proposals in a specially produced consultation booklet, and say whether you agree using the questionnaire provided in the booklet, or online. The consultation booklet and online questionnaire are available on the Suffolk County Council website or visit <http://tinyurl.com/emmerplan>

The future is Green

Green business is growing and individuals, communities and organisations throughout Suffolk are acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect and improve their local environment.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils are no different and have adopted a Joint Environmental Policy to support their own business plans.

This builds on earlier environmental policies, highlights some of their achievements so far and maps out their vision and objectives for the next ten years. Some of the action highlights are:

- Improved insulation, lighting and heating controls.
- Renewable/low carbon installed: Solar PV installed on 10 sheltered housing schemes, Bungay Pool and Ufford Depot. 16 Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) systems, and 80

ASHP and solar thermal combination systems installed.

- Greener information technology: server virtualisation, thin client desktops and remote support tools.
- Working with and supporting partners and volunteers: Suffolk Hedgerow Survey,
- Greener homes DIY Project which provided over £150,000 worth of energy-efficiency and insulation products to householders in 20 targeted communities across Suffolk reaching over 1000 homes (supported by EERA Regional Housing Pot).

Future actions include: further explore opportunities to improve Council's high energy usage sites for efficiency and renewable generation gains.

The policy and action plan can be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/greenissues/footprint/jep/

Green efficiency can save businesses thousands

During its first four months in operation, businesses signing up to a new energy efficiency advice scheme in East Suffolk have learnt how they can save over £330,000.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, in partnership with Groundwork East of England, won European funding to help small and medium businesses in the rural coastal areas of the districts save money by becoming more energy efficient.

The East Coast Carbon Efficiency project offers free energy audits to identify where savings and efficiencies can be achieved, and helps develop green procurement strategies so that companies buy environmentally-friendly local services and products. Grants up to a maximum of £2,000 are available.

Seckford Hall Hotel in Woodbridge was advised to



Ecce project manager Peter Eyles presents cheque to SPOTS

upgrade its heating system to provide a potential saving of over £52,000 per year, while Southwold Post Office, Toys & Stationery received a grant to replace their inefficient heating with an air source heat pump that will save over £800 per year.

Small or medium sized enterprises should contact Peter Eyles on 01502 523394 or e-mail ecce@groundwork.org.uk or visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/ecce.

Foul resident pays the penalty

Following a tip off, a dog owner has paid the penalty for failing to clear up after their dog fouled the pavements in Felixstowe, even though the incident happened at around 4am after the Council investigated complaints from residents living around the Cage Lane area of Walton.

"This case just shows that even in the middle of the night, there is still the chance that those acting irresponsibly in our communities will

get found out and pay the penalty," said Cllr Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

"Call 01934 444000 to report any similar offences anywhere in our district, whether it be dog fouling, dropping litter or fly-tipping. Any information that helps us catch the offenders will be gratefully received, and will of course be treated with the strictest confidence," added Cllr Nunn.

Use your textiles recycling scheme

Every home can now recycle their old textiles by putting them out in a special recycling bags and placing it inside their blue-lidded recycling bin on top of their other loose recyclables.

By putting the bag at the top of the recycling bin, the council collection teams will clearly see it when they empty the recycling bin and leave a replacement bag. Acceptable items are all clean clothing, shoes, boots,

wellington boots, slippers, hats, scarves, gloves, bed linen, blankets, sheets, pillowcases, handbags, belts, clean underwear, curtains, towels, tea towels and stuffed toys.

Unacceptable items are dirty or oily items, duvets, quilts, sleeping bags, pillows, cushions and carpets. For more information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/bluebin/textiles/ or call 01394 444000.

Comments wanted on modifications to core strategy

Everyone has until 4.45pm on Friday, April 5 to comment upon the latest modifications to Suffolk Coastal's Core Strategy (CS) which sets out the district's planning blueprint up to 2027, how many and broadly where new homes and jobs should be created and how our unique environment should be protected.

"The Government's independent planning Inspector held public hearings about our CS. As a consequence certain updates to the CS, 'Main

Modifications', have been identified to ensure it is 'sound' in accordance with the latest changes to Government guidelines. Further comments were sought in response to the formal revocation of the Regional Spatial Strategy (RSS) – East of England Plan, but these have not resulted in any further 'Main' changes," said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning.

"We have also taken the opportunity to bring the document right up

to date and make a few improvements to some phraseology, 'Additional Modifications'.

"There is a clear expectation that we may need to look at even more homes, another 3,000 or so by 2027, but we had always stated we would review our local housing needs in a few years when up to date population figures and the demands of the local economy are clearer. That commitment is now even more categorically stated in our modifications, with a review scheduled to be

under way by 2015," added Cllr Smith.

Representations can be made, on the prescribed form, to the Head of Planning & Coastal Management, Planning Policy Team, Council Offices, Melton Hill, Woodbridge IP12 1AU; or emailing development.policy@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or on via the Council's website www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk where all the documents can be seen. They are also available to read at the Melton Hill Offices, or at local libraries.

Go-ahead for Felixstowe pier

Plans to create a modern complex to replace Felixstowe Pier were approved by Suffolk Coastal in the first important step to regenerating this key part of the resort.

Pier Amusements Ltd want to demolish the pier, the arcade and entertainment centre and replace it all with a new modern complex aimed at all ages.

"These proposals gained unanimous support from our committee, and were

particularly enthusiastically welcomed by our Felixstowe councillors who clearly see the massive boost this scheme could potentially have for the resort," said Councillor Bob Snell, Chairman of the South Area Development Control Sub-Committee.

The new complex could be in place by July 2014 and would include a family entertainment centre with bowling, amusements, a bar and restaurant with sea views.

Shared planning services

Planning services at Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have been merged to help deliver a modern, efficient and customer focused service that is also saving over £800,000.

Each development management and building control team member has

specific geographic areas to cover, so there is one clear point of contact for nearly all matters in that area making it much easier for the public, developers and parishes.

See www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/your-new-improved-planning-service for details.

Outstanding grand designs



The winners of last year's awards with Cllr Peter Bellfield.

Nominations are wanted by April 26 for the fourth annual Quality of Place awards which celebrate the efforts being made by people across Suffolk Coastal to add to its quality by helping conserve historic buildings or the local landscape or nature, or introducing new innovative designs.

"This Council has a proud record of encouraging high quality design and conserving the best of our district, and this awards

ceremony has become an annual opportunity to spotlight some of the excellent efforts being made locally," said Councillor Veronica Falconer, who chairs the panel of judges.

Last year's winners included Heron House, Aldeburgh, Woodbridge Tide Mill, Hasketon Grange, Hasketon, and the Newbourne Play Project. For more information visit www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/planning/policy/qualityofplace/

New voice for beach hut owners welcomed

Proposals for the users of Felixstowe's beach huts and chalets to form their own association have been welcomed by Suffolk Coastal's Council Leader.

The Leader attended a public meeting in February after the Council's decision to increase rents for the 77 chalets, and the annual licence fees for over 900 beach huts, by 20 per cent and 12 per cent respectively.

"I would thank Julie Downton for inviting me to explain why we as a Council had little option but to agree these price rises. Some people think they should be getting more from their annual licence fee and I want to make sure that they, just like all our other customers, are getting the quality of service they are entitled to," said Councillor Ray Herring, the Council's Leader.

"We have a duty to ensure value for money for all our communities, so we reviewed all our charges and in our view those for beach huts and chalets are now broadly comparable with other councils and there is an unmet demand for them with a long waiting list.

"An in depth review of our pricing and the views of the new Association will be taken into account when we consider what to charge for 2014/15," added Cllr Herring.

South Seafront development set to light up Felixstowe

Work is forging ahead on bringing much-needed new homes and leisure facilities for visitors and residents alike at Felixstowe's South Seafront.

The Martello Park is being created by Bloor Homes Eastern and will complement the historic Martello Tower, which thanks to the agreement with the Council, will be refurbished with a landscape area around it, funded by Bloor.

There will be a leisure and recreation space from Sea Road to Manor Terrace, including play, picnic and wildlife areas, plus a proposed beachside café. The details of the play facilities are being consulted on at present and the Council is awaiting responses including from Felixstowe Town Council before making a final decision on the scheme with Bloor.

In all, 97 three bedroom homes will be built, and 30 two bedroom flats, of which 13



Artist's impression of the new Bloor plans for the South Seafront

will be for rent from a housing association. As well as 250 spaces for the new homes, there will also be 261 pay and display parking spaces.

"Our role was to ensure the best possible deal from the sale of the land and to regenerate Felixstowe. We have looked to achieved an exciting range of play facilities for children of all ages - an another addition to the reasons why Felixstowe offers great days by the sea. We will also be seeking opportunities to work even closer with the Town Council on the final scheme and future maintenance and management of the

area," said Councillor Robert Whiting, Cabinet Member for Resources.

"We have worked hard to achieve a scheme that both successfully enhances the South Seafront area and keeping any ongoing costs to the Council Taxpayer down to a minimum, and assuring a share of any profits if house prices rise," added Cllr Herring

The whole £20 million scheme will be completed by 2016, although the Langer Road public car park should be ready by the autumn and the play areas and equipment in February 2014.

Experts and Council agree to reject bids for Spa

Two formal bids to run the Spa Pavilion have been rejected and the hunt will continue to find someone with viable and sustainable plans for the Felixstowe landmark site.

"Jones Lang Lasalle (JLL), the market experts employed by the Council, gave us their professional views on the proposals and they coincided with ours that neither of these bids can be seriously considered as meeting what we were seeking for the

Spa, although I would thank both groups for their time, effort and commitment," said Councillor Geoff Holdcroft, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Leisure.

"We have made it crystal clear we cannot afford the £250,000 annual subsidy from Council Taxpayers or the near £8m to bring the facility up to scratch.

"The financial risks for the Council of both sets of



proposals and the relative short-term nature of them were clear to JLL and to ourselves and we had sadly had no option but to agree with the expert advice and reject them," added Cllr Holdcroft.

Councils ready to say you're hired to eight more apprentices

Eight more apprentices are joining Suffolk Coastal and Waveney after six of the first year's group gained permanent or temporary work with the Councils, with nine others still working across the two Councils.

"The apprenticeship scheme offers the chance to get important work experience and training qualifications for some of our young people while we too benefit from their skills and enthusiasm," said Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal.

The two Councils have also



The two Council Leaders and apprentices were at agreement signing

signed an apprenticeship agreement with UNISON which confirms they will work in partnership to promote

learning in the workplace and review all vacancies that occur with a view to increasing the number of apprentices.

Tourism services set for new Woodbridge home in March



The end of March will see the opening of Woodbridge's new tourist services based at its new central location at the town's library as part of Suffolk Coastal's new information service where the Council's customer service staff will assist anyone who needs help with online ticket enquiries or bookings.

"We were the only Council in Suffolk to have three TICs, and their annual cost is in excess of £250,000 a year or nearly

£5 of our Band D Council Tax bill of £149. Modernising and relocating our Woodbridge services will save us a much-needed £30,000 a year," said Councillor Geoff Holdcroft, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Leisure.

"We remain committed to attracting tourists. Working closer than ever with our partners we aim to provide the modern online information that today's tourists increasingly want and expect, while still offering most of our conventional face-to-face services," added Cllr Holdcroft.

Tourist information can also be found on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/tourism/ and www.thesuffolkcoast.co.uk.

Forum for disabled people

A new forum run for and by the district's disabled people has been set up to give them a better voice in how local services are provided. It is for all disabled residents and their family carers, as well as representatives of disability organisations and people interested in disability issues.

"This new Forum promises to give our district's disabled people a new way to come together and address the issues affecting their daily lives, whether it is access to the services on offer or their ability to physically access buildings and facilities," said Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities.

Email jenny@daseastsuffolk.plus.com or call Margaret on 01394 274345.

Delivering modern customer services

Providing outstanding services around the clock is at the heart of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney's Joint Customer Access Strategy which maps out how both will make services even easier to use by taking advantage of available technology and tailoring them to meet the needs of different people and groups.

The Strategy has been agreed by the Cabinets of both Councils and follows the publication of Business Plans last year which reflected the importance of getting the customer experience right.

Councillor Doreen Savage, Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities, said: "We will shape our services so that they can be accessed in ways and at times which suit the customer. This more modern approach, utilising technology wherever possible, is also a way to deliver some real savings for the Council Tax payer.

"However, this does not mean that we will not be offering our usual excellent customer services by the more traditional methods of telephone and face to face contact. The traditional methods will still be available to everyone during our normal office hours if they prefer but we have to recognise that there is much that we can provide online, or in other ways, which is convenient for us, for our communities and which can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week," added Cllr Savage.

Sporting heroes put in the spotlight



Some of the 2012 Sports Awards' winners

The sixth annual Suffolk Coastal Sport Awards ceremony saw nine winners on a night celebrating achievement from across the district.

The overall Sports Personality of the Year award went to the country's leading light in aiki jutsu Aimee Fairburn of Felixstowe. Photographs can be seen on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

[suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/your-freetime/sports-awards/](http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/your-freetime/sports-awards/)

Entries for this year's Community Awards, which will also celebrate those working in other fields making a difference, will open in June. The awards will be presented on October 6th at Adastral Park, and potential sponsors can find out more via the above web link.

Conservation volunteers praised



Volunteers working at Sutton Heath

The efforts of volunteers working through the winter has been praised for helping to keep some of the district's environmental jewels accessible to the public.

"I would like to thank all those who give up their time to join our volunteer work parties. There are many practical management tasks that need to be carried out,

such as cutting back scrub on heathland, clearing a pond, coppicing woodland or making a muddy path more accessible," said Councillor Andrew Nunn, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment.

The teams recently worked at Leeks Hill in Melton, Sutton, the Mill Stream at Rushmere St Andrew, and at Nacton.

Thorpeness's bags of protection built back up

Contractors in March are making sure that the nearly 2,000 fabric bags filled with sand and shingle put in place last year are doing their job to protect Thorpeness's coastline.

"The £400,000 scheme to reconstruct and strengthen

the damaged coast defence at the northern end of Thorpeness was a partnership of Suffolk Coastal, the Environment Agency and local residents. We have carefully monitored the effectiveness of the defences, and identified some modifications and additions that should improve

its long-term effectiveness," said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Protection.

Most of the funding came from the Government via the Environment Agency, with the rest coming from the Council and local residents,

whose £137,000 commitment ensured the financial backing from the Government.

The Council has also agreed to spend £30,000 topping up the original gabions – wire baskets filled with rocks - that were put in place during 1976.

Remembering the east coast floods of 1953

Events were along the Suffolk Coast to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the great flood of January 31, 1953 which claimed 41 lives in Felixstowe alone when the river walls were breached, with 13 of those being children between six months and eight years old.

"The catastrophic East Coast Floods of 1953 will live forever in the memories of those involved, and the tragic events were a catalyst for all those responsible for coast and flood protection, and also emergency planning, to invest in new defences and proper early warning systems," said Councillor Andy Smith, Cabinet Member for Planning and Coastal Management.

A special booklet 'The Great Flood of 1953' can be seen on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/coastalprotection/1953flood/. It looks at the events of that night, the reasons why, what happened in 2007 with similar conditions but without the disastrous consequences, and what individuals can do to be prepared for the future.