

intouch

with you and Waveney
July 2018



World famous
designer Wayne
Hemingway is planning to
transform Lowestoft!
more on page 7

Farewell Waveney -
historic new council gets
the go-ahead!
pages 8 and 9

 **Waveney**
District Council



contact us

You can do more online at
www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Customer Services:
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customerservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Accessibility:
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of our offices.

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The Marina, Lowestoft
NR32 1HH

Beccles Library
Blyburgate, Beccles
NR34 9TB

*We provide public access
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Opening times:
Marina Customer
Service Centre

Mon-Wed: 8.45am to 5.00pm
Thu: 9.30am to 5.00pm
Fri: 8.45am to 5.00pm

Our busiest day is Monday and our
busiest times are between 12.00pm
and 2.00pm each day.
Additionally, we are very busy at the
beginning and end of each month.
We are closed on bank holidays and
weekends.

facebook.com/eastsuffolkcouncil
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Farewell to a Southwold star

Waveney District Council was deeply saddened by the sudden passing of Councillor Sue Allen.

Sue had served the Council as ward member for Southwold and Reydon for 14 years, which also included eight years as Cabinet Member for Housing and a two-year spell as Chairman of the Council. She served on a number of committees and partner bodies and was a hugely dedicated and popular public servant who was particularly loved in her home town of Southwold, where she also served two terms as Town Mayor.

Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of Waveney District Council paid tribute, saying: "I am both shocked and incredibly saddened to learn of Sue's passing. She was an absolutely wonderful person; caring, generous and entirely committed to public service in Southwold and the wider district.

"She gave everything to seeking better outcomes for local people and communities and she will be deeply missed by everyone who ever knew or worked with her. She was both a good friend and an utterly professional councillor who genuinely sought to improve the lives of others and it will take some time to come to terms with this terrible news." Stephen Baker, Chief Executive of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils said: "This is very sad news which I know will upset many staff considerably. Speaking personally, it has been an absolute pleasure to work closely with Sue at Waveney for over a



decade. She was an outstanding and effective Cabinet Member as well as a thoughtful and community-focused Chairman. She was universally liked and played a lead role in a number of initiatives that have improved Waveney District Council and helped the people we serve. Sue's focus and commitment to getting things done was second to none and staff found her to be engaging, yet purposeful. Her humour and sense of mischief was so endearing. All our thoughts are with Sue's family and friends at this tragic time."

New Group Leader

Peter Byatt is the new Leader of the Labour Group on Waveney District Council.

Cllr Byatt, who is the ward member for Kirkley, was elected at a Group meeting on May 6 and takes up the role with immediate effect. He was first elected to the Council in 2010, representing the Pakefield ward, before taking up his current seat following a by-election in 2017.

Meanwhile, former Leader, Cllr Sonia Barker has decided to step down from the Council and has resigned her seat as a ward member for Pakefield, having served Waveney for seven years.

Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of Waveney District Council, welcomed Cllr Byatt to the role and also paid tribute to Cllr Barker. He said: "Peter is a well-respected and community-focused

councillor and I would like to congratulate him on his appointment and wish him well in his new role. I would also like to offer my best regards to Sonia who worked hard as both a councillor and Group Leader. I wish her well for the future."



Council 'make-up' as of May 20 2018

Conservative 28, Labour 15, Independent 2, Green 1.

There are currently two vacant seats on the council

For latest news regarding by-elections, please go to www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/elections

Waveney welcomes tour again

Waveney is once again delighted to be hosting a stage of the OVO Energy Women's Tour which returns to Suffolk this week. The opening stage, on Wednesday June 13, of this UCI Women's WorldTour race begins over the border in Framlingham before finishing in beautiful Southwold.

Over 100 of the world's top cyclists will race to the seaside town, home of sponsors Adnams, taking in a 130-kilometre route through Suffolk, including Wickham Market, Woodbridge, Ipswich, Stowmarket and Halesworth.

It will mark the fourth time that Britain's biggest women's cycling event has returned to the county, and in a boost for fans there will also be a chance to ride much of the route in the OVO Energy Tour Ride sportive event supporting Breast Cancer Care on Sunday 1 July.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal District Council's Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure and Cllr Michael Ladd, Waveney District Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism said: "This popular event brings many visitors to our region and provides a real boost to the local economy.

"As always, we will be working closely with local communities, businesses and schools to get them involved with Tour-related activities."

Two weeks after the race a special sportive



will take place on Sunday 1 July, starting and finishing in Southwold, giving members of the public the chance to ride one of two routes, both of which will use the Stage One route. Further details of the OVO Energy Tour Ride supporting Breast Cancer Care, including how to enter are available at www.tourride.co.uk.

Claire Pulford, Head of Events at Breast Cancer Care said: "We are absolutely delighted to be partnering with the OVO Energy Women's Tour for a second year. It is particularly exciting for Breast Cancer Care to be involved in this year's OVO

Energy Tour Ride. More than 500 people in Suffolk will be diagnosed with breast cancer this year and the funds raised from the Tour Ride will help our charity continue to support and make a positive difference to these people and the lives of the thousands of people facing breast cancer in the UK."

A one-hour highlights programme of every stage will be broadcast daily on ITV4 and Eurosport and available on demand via the ITV Hub and Eurosport Player. The OVO Energy Women's Tour is a part of the UCI Women's WorldTour, comprising 23 events around the world in 10 different countries.

Waterlane Leisure Centre is scaling new heights



**To book a session
please call Waterlane
Leisure Centre
on 01502 532540**

A brand new state-of-the-art climbing wall, offering exciting modern facilities, is now welcoming east Suffolk climbers!

Following a £90,000 investment from Waveney District Council, experienced climbing wall design and installation company Rockworks Ltd developed the facility at Waterlane Leisure Centre, which is managed by the Council's leisure partners Sentinel Leisure Trust. The 'East Face', which has 19 climbing lines and eight 'auto-belay' devices offers novice and experienced climbers with modern, local facilities, as well as catering for club sessions and parties. Cllr Graham Catchpole, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships, said: "The new wall provides local climbers with quality facilities right on their doorstep and will also attract climbers from across the county, establishing Lowestoft and east Suffolk as an indoor climbing destination. We hope the new climbing wall will also encourage non-climbers to try the sport for the first time."

Chris Ames, Director of Business Development for Sentinel Leisure Trust, said: "The new wall and refurbished cave bring a new attraction to our already wide variety of clubs and activities for the community at Waterlane. The wall stands at over 9m high and 23m wide and featured auto-belay systems that will make birthday parties and group sessions a blast, whilst our new team of instructors will provide progressive sessions for all abilities to come and learn the fastest growing sport." The nine metre high 'East Face' is available for exclusive corporate hire opportunities, team-building events and as part of Sentinel's 'Energised' Saturday and holiday clubs. Climbing instructors deliver a full programme of group sessions, birthday parties, structured and member sessions. In addition to the climbing wall, the Bouldering Cave has also been refurbished to provide a further challenge to climbers as part of new membership packages on offer.

A historic final budget for Waveney

Thanks to an ongoing programme of savings and efficiencies to bridge a forecasted £1.3m gap, Waveney District Council presented a balanced budget for the financial year 2018/19, their last ever, at a full Council meeting in February

Despite the financial challenges facing local government and the ongoing reduction in central government funding for the delivery of local services, the council agreed a budget which will see a net figure of £10.6 million spent on essential local services in the district between April 2018 and March 2019.

Working closely in partnership with Suffolk Coastal District Council, the two authorities are able to boast combined efficiency savings of around £22.5m since 2010 and from 2019 - following final approval by Parliament - a budget will be set by the new East

Efficiency savings
with Suffolk Coastal
since 2010:
£22.5 million
Council budget for
services in 2018-19:
£10.6million
Average weekly council
tax increase on band 'd'
property in 2018:
10p

Suffolk District Council which will replace Suffolk Coastal and Waveney.

This is therefore the final ever budget set by Waveney and Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of the Council, paid tribute to those who have helped deliver what he believes is a budget that will give local communities the best possible services.

He said: "This budget and our council tax calculations for 2018/19 seek to strike an appropriate balance between delivering value for money and the importance of funding the services that our

communities, including those most vulnerable, want and need.

"A huge amount of hard work from councillors and officers

has gone in to delivering a balanced budget despite the financial challenges we face and I am extremely proud to be the Leader here, on this historic evening, welcoming this last ever Waveney budget."

Residents living in a Band 'D' property will pay Waveney District Council an additional £4.86 per year as part of their overall council tax bill – the equivalent of less than 10p per week.

Waveney's Council Tax is only a small proportion of the total Council Tax required to fund all local authority and police services in the Waveney area, with only approximately 10% of each household's bill going to district council services.



Waveney Councillors together for the final annual council

Universal Credit changes and improvements

Households receiving Housing Benefit which need to make a new claim for Universal Credit are now entitled to an extra two weeks help with their rent.

Now, their Housing Benefit will continue for a further two weeks after they claim Universal Credit; one of the measures that have been introduced by DWP - following discussions with Waveney District Council and Waveney MP Peter Aldous - to help people moving over to Universal Credit while they wait for their first month's payment.

Additionally the amount of money a household can receive as an advance of their first Universal Credit payment has increased. A household can receive as much as 100% of their estimated first Universal Credit payment, early, in order to manage their household bills, whilst they wait for their first month's Universal Credit payment.

From February this year the seven waiting days that were applied at the start of the Universal Credit claim were removed, further reducing the time a household has to wait for

their first Universal Credit payment.

From April, the gateway to claiming Housing Benefit for those placed in temporary accommodation by the Local Authority was re-opened. As a Local Authority with housing stock, Waveney were sympathetic of temporary accommodation providers, and rallied to influence this policy change. Meanwhile Waveney District Council has been working with DWP to offer "Universal Support" to help households with the transition to managing a monthly income and online account. People can visit us at our Customer Service hubs located at the Marina in Lowestoft and Beccles Library, where we can help with setting up an email address, making a Universal Credit claim and managing the online account. Citizens Advice has also been providing support to households managing the transition to a monthly payment. Since Universal Credit was introduced at Lowestoft Jobcentre in May 2016, Citizens Advice has helped over 500 households manage the change to a single monthly income.



Visit eastsuffolk.gov.uk/benefits/universal-credit for useful links, videos and FAQs, as well as full Universal Support information and a dedicated section for Landlords.

Five-star standards across east Suffolk eateries



More than 170 businesses across east Suffolk have recently been awarded a Food Hygiene Rating of 5 - the highest level possible.

Inspections by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils' Food and Safety Team in February and March saw a total of 177 local businesses receiving Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) ratings of '5/very good', highlighting their dedication to hygiene and excellent approach to food safety: During an inspection, each food business is checked for the following:

- * how hygienically the food is handled - how it is prepared, cooked, re-heated, cooled and stored
- * the condition of the structure of the buildings - the cleanliness, layout, lighting, ventilation and other facilities
- * how the business manages and records

what it does to make sure food is safe.

At the end of the inspection, our food safety officers give the business a rating between 0-5.

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) helps customers make an informed choice about where to eat by highlighting restaurants, pubs and cafés with excellent food hygiene. Food businesses can display their black and green FHRS sticker advertising their current food safety rating, which gives customers an immediate insight into the kitchen and shows how seriously the business takes food hygiene.

Customers are encouraged to check food hygiene ratings when choosing where to eat by looking for the FHRS sticker before ordering food. The ratings of over 440,000 food businesses can also be checked online at

www.ratings.food.gov.uk

Food and safety training

To help businesses ensure that employees are appropriately trained, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils jointly run a nationally recognised training course, the Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering. This course is intended for anyone working in a catering or hospitality setting where food is prepared, cooked and served. Typical environments may include pubs, hotels, restaurants, contract catering, fast-food outlets, hospitals, care and nursing homes, schools, prisons and the armed forces.

Courses are held at East Suffolk House in Melton and Riverside in Lowestoft, costing £75.00 per person (£67.50 when you book and pay online!) and includes tea and coffee. The next course dates are 20 June (Melton) and 19 July (Lowestoft).

Book online at:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/food-safety



Ready, Tedder, Go!

After weeks of preparation, residents of a Lowestoft street have gathered for a street party to bring people together and help get to know their neighbours.

On Sunday 29 April, residents from Tedder Road in Lowestoft enjoyed a street party, organised by a group of volunteers from the street, with support from the East Suffolk Communities Team.

Despite the rain, approximately 65 residents attended the party, along with Cllr Mary Rudd, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Community Health and Safety and Cllr Alison Cackett, Deputy Cabinet Member for Merger and Communities who judged competitions and presented prizes, which were donated by the residents themselves. Representatives from Great Yarmouth and Waveney Mind and Lowestoft Ogogo were also present at the party to raise awareness of their services.

Cllr Rudd said: "Street parties are a great way to get to know your neighbours, improve community spirit and have fun right on your doorstep. The Tedder Road party was a great success and I hope it inspires others across Waveney to organise their own parties."

Many of the competition prizes were donated by Tedder Road resident Brian Clarke, who sadly passed away shortly before the party. A letter from Brian's step-daughter Susan Shephard, who also volunteered with the street party arrangements, was read out at the event by Lowestoft Communities Officer Rachel Tucker.

Cllr Cackett said: "We are especially grateful to the late Brian Clarke and his family who contributed to the party. The Communities Team would like to express their sincerest condolences to his friends and family."

A raffle, organised by Susan along with



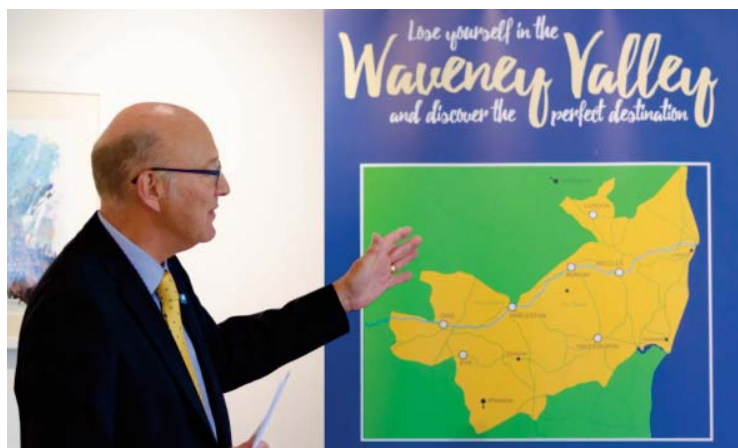
volunteers Allison and Gabriel Sanford and David and Denise Smith, raised £100 which will be donated to a local cancer charity in memory of Brian.

The East Suffolk Communities Team comprises teams from Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils and Suffolk County Council.

Anyone wishing to organise a street party can contact

rachel.tucker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or call 01502 523111

A Waveney Valley welcome



A new project to promote the Waveney Valley as a unique visitor destination has been launched.

Working in partnership, South Norfolk, Mid Suffolk and Waveney District Councils have launched the Waveney Valley LEADER project which will help boost tourism in the area and improve the local economy. The project focuses on the Waveney Valley area incorporating the towns of Beccles, Bungay, Diss, Eye, Halesworth, Harleston and Loddon as well as the surrounding rural hinterlands around the River Waveney.

At an event held at the Earsham Wetland Centre, the project was officially launched, with representatives present from the three local authorities, businesses and local tourism organisations. The project aims to develop initiatives that encourage the discovery of the

Waveney Valley as a visitor destination, linking places of interest through their products, history or landscape as well as encouraging visitors to stay for longer and to increase their spend. Through a co-ordinated approach, the project aims to provide unique experiences for visitors such as heritage trails, river-based nature trails, food and drink weekend experiences and produce tours.

Funding of £28,000, secured by Waveney District Council, will help to further the project and has enabled the recruitment of a

Project Development Coordinator to work with the recently established Local Tourism Action Group. Together they will improve the management of the Waveney Valley as a visitor destination.

Cllr Michael Ladd, Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism at Waveney District Council said: "Tourism is an essential part of the local economy and we want to maximise the opportunities for tourism within the Waveney Valley. By working with other local authorities, businesses and tourism groups, we can co-ordinate activities to raise the profile and encourage more visitors to this beautiful area.

Lisa Vincent, Project Development Coordinator said: "I'm very excited to have been chosen to co-ordinate this project on behalf of the LTAG. I am passionate about both business and tourism in the region and look forward to working with you all to bring more visitors to the beautiful Waveney Valley."

The project will work alongside nearby visitor destinations such as Norwich, The Suffolk Coast and The Broads.

Real relief for enterprising businesses

Following a decision by Waveney District Council last month all new businesses entering an 'Enterprise Zone' premises will now enjoy up to three years rate relief.

In 2012 Waveney District Council, Great Yarmouth Borough Council and New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership were successful in gaining Enterprise Zone status for six sites across the sub-region. This included four sites across Lowestoft and Beccles: South Lowestoft Industrial Estate, Mobbs Way, Riverside Road and Ellough Business Park. As Enterprise Zones, businesses in these sites were granted up to five years of business rate relief up to a maximum of £275,000 providing the business occupied one of these sites prior to the April 2018 expiry date.

As a number of developments were in danger of missing the cut off, including the new Phoenix Enterprise Park at South Lowestoft Industrial Estate and start up units being developed at Longfield Court, Mobbs Way, and wanting to support the successful of the Enterprise Zones, Waveney District Council has agreed to use their own Local Discretionary Rate Relief Policy to extend the scheme and allow a further three years of relief, providing properties are occupied ahead of April 2019. Furthermore, this relief can be retrospectively claimed so



Contact the council's Economic Development & Regeneration Team via economicservices@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or 01502 523 335.

any business who has occupied a site within this timeframe will be awarded backdated relief.

Cllr Michael Ladd, Cabinet Member for Economic Development, said: "This is a crucial decision for growing the local economy and I am delighted that the rate relief has been extended to benefit a range of new local businesses".

Businesses will be required to populate a brief form to confirm their details ahead of

the relief being awarded. This will be located on the Anglian Revenues Partnership website. Businesses interested in moving into the Enterprise Zone can contact the Economic Development and Regeneration Team. More information on Enterprise Zones can be found on our website. www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/business-incentives

Seafront Vision seeks visionary businesses!



Working with world famous designer Wayne Hemingway MBE, the Lowestoft Coastal Communities Team has developed a website to showcase the exciting South Beach Seafront Vision scheme including a timeline outlining the regeneration opportunities. Now, some of the ideas are being brought to life!

The council is also interested in hearing from businesses who are interested in sharing the opportunities by setting up 'concession stalls' in the South Beach area.

We are particularly interested in encourag-

ing pop up stalls and new or established businesses to use the East Point Pavilion. You may like to trial selling products, such as local produce or crafts or be an organisation or community group who want to promote what you do, taking advantage of a prime spot along the seafront!

For more information, head to www.lowestoftsouthbeach.co.uk for yourself and read in more detail about the suggested ideas to help put Lowestoft on the map for visitors. If you are a business or community group we would love to hear from you. Get proactively involved in making the changes a reality and contact us through the website!

The Coastal Communities Team (CCT) received a fantastic boost thanks to the vision of Wayne Hemingway who said: "Lowestoft has great potential and there are things we can improve without spending a lot of money. As always there are barriers and there are people who don't want to believe or feel disillusioned, but this is about opening minds to try new things."

So far working together as the CCT we have delivered and supported a number of the key projects in Lowestoft:

New wayfinding information

This is a cohesive information signing strategy

that draws visitors along the seafront from Pakefield to Sparrow's Nest

First Light Festival

Initial funding has been awarded from the Arts Councils to develop plans for a 24 hour long beach festival that, celebrates the UK's 'First Light' of day on the seafront of Britain's most easterly town.

Cefas

Investment in the site through an exciting re-development proposal will ensure Cefas continue to have an importance presence in the town.

Royal Green

Options to ensure this is an attractive open space for family activities as well as organised events including increasing the play facilities are being considered

Coastal Community Teams bring together a range of local stakeholders from the local authority, community and business groups to help coordinate regeneration projects in their area and help develop an effective strategy.

www.coastalcommunities.co.uk/coastal-teams/lowestoft

www.lowestoftsouthbeach.co.uk

Action zone to support heritage



Plans have been revealed for the North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone, which will see Lowestoft boosted by an injection of funds and the collaborative efforts of a number of local organisations keen to breathe new life into the area.

The five-year scheme, led by Waveney District Council and Historic England, will see grant funding for housing repairs and renovation, research into the history of the area, training, support for buildings at risk, and a community programme including public lectures and training.

Historic England in the East of England will provide an estimated £500,000, with the rest coming from Waveney District Council and the private sector. In addition to Waveney District Council and Historic England, the partnership includes: Lowestoft Town Council, Lowestoft Vision, and East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust.

The historic area that will be the focus of the Heritage Action Zone (HAZ) includes the medieval High Street, the Scores

(steep narrow paths in the cliff), historic smokehouses and net stores, and once fine Victorian parks.

To launch the new scheme, the HAZ Partnership held a breakfast meeting for owners, landlords and agents in the area who can now access funding and support to help with heating improvements and general renovation works to their residential properties. Other grants will be launched later in the scheme.

If you own a property in the Heritage Action Zone and want to find out more how to get involved or how to access renovation grants then please contact us at economicservices@eastssuffolk.gov.uk. If you live, work or visit the area you can share your photographs and memories of the area on Twitter using the hashtag **#scoresHAZ**. If you have information or photographs about any of the listed buildings in the area, you can help the Heritage Action Zone team by adding that information to the List entry here.

www.historicengland.org.uk/listing/enrich-the-list/

Parliament approves historic new council

Parliament has approved the historic creation of a new super district council for east Suffolk, bringing a decade of partnership work between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney to a culmination.

Following the issuing of a public statement by the then Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid, agreeing to the new authority, officials from the two councils were present at Westminster in May as a Parliamentary Order was presented by Rishi Sunak MP (pictured, with East Suffolk officials) in the House of Commons and by Lord Bourne of Aberystwyth in the House of Lords.

Welcoming the news, the Leaders of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council, Cllrs Ray Herring and Mark Bee, said in a joint statement:

"This is a truly momentous decision for us and for the people of east Suffolk. Although this approval is a national first, for us in east Suffolk it is the next logical step on a decade-long journey. We are used to breaking new ground, as we have been finding innovative ways to cut costs and manage our business since Suffolk Coastal and Waveney started working in partnership 10 years ago.

"We have already made over £22million in efficiency savings and halved our joint

workforce, while still investing in our communities. The creation of an East Suffolk Council will enable us to build on this decade of co-operation to give greater value for money, while continuing to improve service delivery."

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils both voted to approve the proposal to create a brand new 'super district' council, delivering services to communities in the east of the county, in January 2017. A business case was

then submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government a month later.

This is the first time that the Secretary of State has given his backing to such a plan and now gives the councils the go ahead to proceed with getting everything in place to create the a new council by May 2019.

"We have a proud record of achieving success through innovative partnership working between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council. We are glad that the Secretary of State has recognised this in agreeing the creation of this new 'super district' for east Suffolk," said Cllrs Herring and Bee. "We need to evolve, if we are to



successfully address the shared opportunities and challenges that both councils face. There have been significant reductions in Central Government funding for councils, but we need to be able to drive and invest in growth and infrastructure projects, as well as providing more much-needed housing.

"A larger, more influential East Suffolk Council will enable us to fulfill our potential in driving development, while keeping costs low."

The new Council will come into being, and begin operations, following the local council elections in May 2019. The two existing councils will then be formally dissolved with elections to the new authority.

East Suffolk: so much in common

The two councils have so much in common and have enjoyed a long and successful partnership from which the new east Suffolk Council will be born. This is a vital, exciting partnership with shared challenges, issues and ambitions to ensure better outcomes for communities:

Both are coastal authorities

Impact of major projects (Sizewell C)

Shared economic opportunities (energy coast, tourism, agriculture)

Single, joint, Business Plan, performance report and website

Shared economic challenges (skills, low wage economy in parts)

Shared policies and strategies (communications, digital, investment, etc.)

Emerging areas of economic growth (film and media)

Single, joint, responses to consultation at regional and national level

Demographic issues (ageing population)

Single ICT infrastructure, providing efficiency and resilience

Shortfalls in digital infrastructure (broadband and mobile signal)

Created a new town council in Lowestoft

Challenges in healthcare provision (access to services)

Building new council houses for the first time in a generation



Leaders hail new council decision

No-one could be prouder of the collective efforts to create a new council for east Suffolk than the Leaders of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, Ray Herring and Mark Bee. They reflect on a decade-long journey and a 'win for east Suffolk'.



2018 marks a decade of successful, cutting-edge partnership working in east Suffolk, culminating in our district councils making history by creating one 'super' council delivering the best possible services for local people.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have been jointly streamlining operations and reducing costs, while providing high quality frontline services since 2008 and we have made over £22million efficiency savings in that time. An amazing achievement when each council only has a £12million annual budget (2017/18 figures). And yet the councils continue to invest, developing partnerships to provide improved services and even both moving to

new headquarters. The councils now have a shared workforce, joint website and a single East Suffolk Business Plan.

This quiet revolution, with two councils acting like one for almost 10 years, is now moving towards its logical conclusion and this will create the largest district council in the country, allowing the councils to bring in extra savings and improvements across its 487 square mile area.

The East Suffolk district councils of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have proudly established themselves as pioneers of adaptation and strength in the face of adversity. The two councils have long been recognised as innovators, keeping council tax low and yet still enjoying a reputation for

high standards. And yet, both councils understand how important it is to continue this progressive evolution with the creation of a new council to represent and serve the communities of East Suffolk - the largest district council in the country; a powerful and influential force for good in a time of uncertainty.

- A win for east Suffolk – continue to deliver front line services, investment in communities, financial stability, generating capacity, improving resilience and giving local communities a stronger voice
- A win for local government – demonstrating we can deliver reform, be innovative and transform ourselves
- A win for national government – reducing costs, streamlining and strengthening local government and providing a model for others to follow.

Cllrs Herring and Bee:

"We have long been recognised as innovators, keeping council tax low and yet still enjoying a reputation for high standards."

10 years in the making

The two councils have long been recognised as innovators, working in partnership since 2008 under one of the country's first shared Chief Executive.

Since then, both councils have been at the forefront of the shared services agenda, with a combined senior management team established; quickly followed by a fully integrated workforce supporting both Councils. It has enabled the two councils to make huge savings, keep council tax low and still deliver high quality services.

Today there is a single Corporate Management Team for both councils which is less than half the size of the original two management teams – delivering annual savings of around £1million, 64% of staff are already working in single staffing teams that operate a shared service across the two councils (over 73% of the services).

And yet, both understand how important it is to continue this progressive evolution with the creation of a new council to represent and serve the communities of East Suffolk - the largest district council in the country; a powerful and influential force for good in a time of uncertainty.



Timeline

- 2008:** Appointment of Joint Chief Executive
- 2009:** Creation of joint Senior Management Team
- 2010:** First simultaneous Cabinet
- 2013:** Full assimilation of east Suffolk workforce
- 2016:** Proposal to create new single council
- 2017:** Council decision and submission to Government
- 2017:** Minister 'Minded to'
- 2018:** Ministerial approval and Parliamentary decision
- 2019:** New Council created and first elections

In defence of poetry for Lowestoft pupils

As part of an overarching arts and cultural project jointly led by Waveney District Council, the arts charity, FlipSide, has visited 10 Lowestoft schools and engaged over 1000 school children through assemblies and poetry workshops as part of their Watertight Words scheme.



With the help of Suffolk Record Offices, Ivan Bunn and poet Dean Parkin, the children explored Lowestoft's history of flooding, shared their responses to the sea and looked at plans for the £32 million permanent flood defence scheme. The children's poems and words have been

collated by Parkin and will form the basis of a series of temporary typographic installations in Lowestoft town centre by renowned lettering artist Gary Breeze, the first of which will be unveiled on June 28th. An engraving in the glass section of the new sea wall, inspired by the communities' creations will be a lasting legacy for the town.

Wider community workshops took place in May and from these workshops text created by the children and the community, will be used in the imaginative and thought provoking art installation, which will wrap around the town in key locations, bringing colour, animation and inventiveness into the public realm, and importantly connecting the town's community to the project in a very tangible way. In addition, pop-up displays of typographic artwork created during the project will also be shown at local civic events such as the Lowestoft Summer Festival and also in the Library, ensuring that the project is phased throughout the sea defence wall construction.

Through grass roots community activities this project will create a giant artwork that links to an important infrastructure project for the whole town. It will raise the profile and value of art and culture and show how it is relevant to contemporary issues and

how it can enhance the environment. It will contribute to greater community cohesion and ownership of the town. The legacy engraving in the completed sea defence wall will be a lasting cultural legacy for Lowestoft, connecting it to a 'watertight' future for the next one hundred years!

Watertight Words in partnership with the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project, is part of Making Waves Together, which is a cultural partnership led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney District Council supported by a team of cultural partners across both Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft. Making Waves Together brings both towns together through delivering a range of cultural activity inspiring and engaging our communities as both participants and audiences and put arts, culture and heritage at the heart of the local vision. All this is made possible through the Great Place Scheme, delivered by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and Historic England.

Big Lottery funding to make a real difference

£384,000 of Big Lottery funding has been secured for a new project which will put residents at the heart of developing their communities in Lowestoft and the surrounding area.

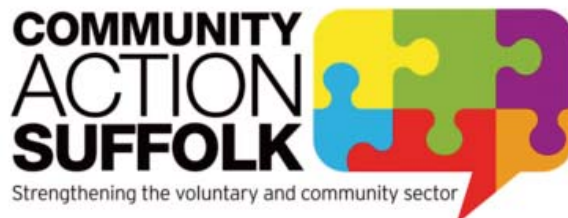
Community Action Suffolk, working in partnership with Waveney District Council has successfully secured funding to help local residents identify challenges and solutions in Kirkley, Harbour and Kessingland.

The project will recruit a 'Community Enabler' for each area. The team will work closely with residents and partner organisations to identify opportunities to make our local communities stronger and more resilient. The project will include various community events and workshops to engage local residents and use their contributions to shape decisions and improve links to support for individuals in their communities.

The project will be managed and delivered by Community Action Suffolk, with additional support from the East Suffolk Communities Team (staff from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils and Suffolk

County Council). The three Community Enablers will also work closely with Lowestoft Town Council and Lowestoft Rising. Cllr Stephen Ardley, Deputy Leader of Waveney District Council and Cabinet Member for Merger and Communities said: "Successfully securing this funding is excellent news and through partnership working with Community Action Suffolk, the project will help to build strong, resilient communities with residents at the very centre."

Hannah Reid, Director of Business Development at, Community Action Suffolk said: "We are delighted to be working in partnership with Waveney District Council and other partners to develop local communities. CAS currently manages similar, successful projects across Suffolk and we believe in supporting local social action led by local residents and community champions." The National Lottery Funding, secured by Community Action Suffolk and the Council's Funding team through the



Reaching Communities Fund, will secure the project for three years. We would like to thank players of the National Lottery for enabling this project to happen."



**NATIONAL
LOTTERY FUNDED**

Historic homebuilding underway



Work has started on the construction of 23 new affordable homes in Reydon – with priority to be given to local people when they are completed.

Waveney cabinet member for housing Cllr Chris Punt and chairman of Reydon Parish Council Cllr Barrie Remblance joined Mark Walker from Orbit Homes and Paul Pitcher of contractor Wellington to cut the first sod at the site, on Green Lane in the village.

The homes, which will be a mixture of affordable rented and shared ownership, are being built on a so-called 'Exceptions Site', which means that the houses will be allocated on a 'Local Lettings' basis, with priority given to people who have a connection with Reydon and adjoining parishes. As well as the 23 new homes, the site will feature a public open space and generous parking provision.

Cllr Punt said, "We are pleased to be supporting this development, which is an excellent example of partnership working between multiple organisations and the community to ensure the creation of more affordable housing for local people."

Cllr Remblance added, "The parish council welcomes these much-needed new homes in the village. There is a real shortage of good quality, affordable housing in the area for local people, which is why the parish council were all in favour of this new development."

Paul Pitcher, managing director of Lowestoft-based contractor Wellington, which is building the new homes on behalf of Orbit Homes, said: "We are delighted to be building these new homes for local people in and around Reydon. This is a good, spacious site, which means that the new homes will have good sized gardens and plenty of parking space, as well as a communal green space for everyone to enjoy."

The new homes are scheduled to be handed over in spring 2019.

No central heating? We could help!

In partnership with other Suffolk councils, Waveney has recently secured funding to install over 500 fuel poor households with first time central heating systems in Suffolk over the next three years.

This funding has been secured from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund and is being delivered via our Suffolk Warm Homes Fund. The heating systems installed will be either gas or oil, consisting of a boiler and radiators.

Ms M recently enquired about the fund and was delighted to be told she qualified. We spoke to her to find out more.

How long have you lived in your home?

I have lived in my home for nearly 13 years.

How did you heat your home last winter? Was this adequate?

Last year my house was inadequately heated with ancient storage heaters in only some of the rooms. I inherited them, so to speak, as they were there when I moved in. I suffered so much with the cold I had to buy five plug in electrical fires.

Do you think the temperature had an effect on your health?

I certainly believe this awful heating system was detrimental to my health. I have

several serious conditions which were made worse when I had to attend to them in the middle of night in a freezing bedroom, hall and bathroom. To go into one of these unheated rooms was an absolutely miserable experience.

How did you hear about Warm Homes Healthy People project?

I think I initially heard of this scheme - 'warm homes, healthy people' - at the CAB when getting advice on a mortgage issue.

How are Warm Homes Healthy People going to help you?

They are going to install a fully funded, oil fired central heating system with funding they won from National Grid's Warm Homes Fund.

What are you looking forward to most about a warm home?

What I most look forward to is having wonderful instant heat, on a thermostat that will regulate the warmth for me whatever the outside weather. I'll have heat all day and all night if necessary. Marvellous!!

Would you recommend the project to others?

I most certainly would recommend this project to others



To be eligible you must own your property or privately rent (i.e. not a council house or housing association property), must not have an existing central heating system (a boiler and radiators) and suffer from fuel poverty. For more information about the fund and its eligibility criteria see

www.greensuffolk.org/whf or complete the online enquiry form at

www.greensuffolk.org/seaenquiry

You can also call our Warm Homes Healthy People service on 03456 037 686 (local rate).



Love east Suffolk - hate litter!

Community litter picks have taken place throughout east Suffolk, as part of our annual scheme which rewards residents for cleaning up their communities.

Throughout March, April and May, community groups organising a litter pick in their local area were encouraged to register with our 'Love East Suffolk' scheme. All groups participating before 31 May 2018 were eligible to receive £20 for their nominated community fund or charity, and have been entered into a £200 grand prize draw, with prizes provided by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse. Litter picks took place in Alderton, Blundeston, Barnby and North Cove, Butley, Debach, Hasketon, Hollesley, Martlesham, Orford, Southwold, Thorpeness and Woodbridge. Staff also took part in lunch-time litter picks at Riverside and East Suffolk House.

Community litter picks and beach cleans can be carried out at any time of year. Waveney Norse can provide groups with litter-picking equipment including sacks and disposable gloves, as well as removing any collected litter. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops and tabards can also be hired, subject to availability. www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/love-east-suffolk



£100,000 holiday fund success



A £50,000 programme supporting organisations to provide activities for young people during the school holidays has now closed with dozens of organisations benefiting from funding.

The East Suffolk Youth Priority Action Group (ESYPAG) Youth Holiday Activities Fund had been running for two years and, with support from the East Suffolk Communities Team, was administered by a panel of young people from across east Suffolk. £50,000 of funding was allocated to the ESYPAG by the East Suffolk Partnership to support the delivery of youth holiday activities. Spread across six rounds of funding and 28 separate groups and organisations have received funding to support 48 different projects. Match funding leveraged as a result of the funded projects totalled £100,463.

Funding applications were read by the ESYPAG panel, followed by presentations from the applicants. Applications were then scored in order to determine whether

funding was to be given.

The funding programme aimed to improve the variety of opportunities for young people aged between school years 7 - 13 (ages 11-18 years). Activities considered included sport but also activities promoting the arts, science as well as those to improve skills, as well as activities aimed at young disabled people.

The East Suffolk Partnership is a voluntary arrangement that attracts organisations from the public, business, community and voluntary sectors to work together for the benefit of East Suffolk. The ESP is aligned with the district boundaries of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney and operates at a level which enables strategic decisions that affect East Suffolk and also drive delivery of projects and initiatives at a relatively local level.

The East Suffolk Communities Team comprises officers from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils and Suffolk County Council.

Free Summer fun!



The East Suffolk Communities team are working in partnership with Positive Futures, Catch22 for their fifth summer season!

We are offering FREE summer beach activities to all 9-16 years. Sessions will run every Tuesday and Thursday throughout the summer holidays with the first session taking place on Tuesday 31st July through to Thursday 30th August. These are open to all 9-16 year olds. Activities planned include:

cricket, rounders, dodge ball, climbing wall, boxing, futsal, tag rugby, volleyball, American football and much more....

Follow the East Suffolk Communities Team's Facebook Page where you find out more about the activities on offer and use the sign up form to attend your free sessions.

National recognition for supporting people

The work of Waveney District Council to support people through their transition to Universal Credit has received national recognition.

To help customers with their transition to Universal Credit, the Councils implemented a multi-agency approach to offer assistance with making and maintaining a Universal Credit claim online and help with Personal Budgeting Support to manage the transition to a monthly payment. The approach saw the Councils' Benefits (Anglia Revenues Partnership), Customer Services, Housing and Housing Needs teams working together with the Department for Work and Pensions Partnership Manager for Suffolk, Lowestoft JobCentre specialist officers and North East Suffolk Citizens Advice. This partnership approach has helped us tailor services to meet the needs of different customers, to ensure our services are

accessible and that any barriers to claiming Universal Credit are identified and managed. The Partnership also had an important role in representing key findings to government on behalf of residents, business and the sector.

Earlier this year, this unique Support Partnership won Silver in the Reinventing Local Services category at the iESE Public Service Transformation Awards 2018.

Receiving the award were Sarah Hyman & Chloe Jacobs from the Anglia Revenues Partnership, along with Waveney District Council's Cabinet Member for Customer Service Cllr Craig Rivett.



For help with Universal Credit, please visit eastsuffolk.gov.uk/universal-credit or call in to one of our Customer Services centres.

Beccles Clock Tower

Waveney District Council has completed a £100,000 project to carry out repairs and safety works on Beccles Clock Tower.

Following reports of loose and falling masonry in August 2015, the Council appointed a specialist conservation surveyor to prepare a report on the overall condition and works required.

This report detailed the works required to take place across a five-year period and includes high-level stonework repairs and lead weathering, high-level inspection of the existing stonework, replacement of the lead to the roof, timber repairs to the roof and

improvements to the drainage system. Some minor repairs to access doors and additional cleaning works were also recommended. Given that the work would require scaffolding to be attached to the tower throughout, it was agreed that these works would be combined and undertaken in the same period, thus reducing the overall cost and limiting the inconvenience which would be caused by the repeated erecting of scaffold. Work was completed on the project in March.

Cllr Graham Catchpole, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships, said: "Beccles Clock Tower is an iconic structure and it is our responsibility to ensure it is preserved and maintained to the best possible standards. Unfortunately this means that we are required to undertake intrusive work from time to time, however we were also determined that any work was undertaken as efficiently as possible and we are satisfied that by combining a number of tasks we kept disruption to a minimum. "The work took longer than expected and it is the nature of projects such as these that delays can incur extra costs. However we are pleased that it has now been completed and that the Clock Tower can now be revealed with a range of critical issues resolved."



Bringing shelter back to life

Waveney District Council has secured approval for a project to restore a landmark structure on the Esplanade in Lowestoft.

Cabinet approval was granted earlier this year and, subject to final planning consent, it will be restored as a beach shelter seating area with connections available for a concession/hot food should we receive enquiries for this use.

The shelter is located between Claremont Pier and the mariners base and is the only example of an Art Deco beach shelter left along the Esplanade. It is also one of the last pieces of Art Deco left in Lowestoft. The building has a concrete structure with a steel frame which has dilapidated extensively over the years so the structure will be restored. The council also plans to make the building more accessible by providing ramped access within the structure and shutters will be fitted to provide security to the space over night.

Placement proves perfect

Waveney District Council is firmly committed to careers for young people and Zoe is just one of many school students who have benefited from a work experience placement.

As part of her time with us, Zoe - who attends Sir John Lehman High School, (pictured with Waveney's Cheryl Stockwell), worked with the Economic Development and Regeneration Team and enjoyed a busy diary working with many officers on different projects and initiatives. Zoe has also spent time with officers from Suffolk County Council discussing Lowestoft Rising and also has been out on site looking at our Lowestoft Seafront Regeneration project as well as visiting some industrial sites and business centres. Not only that but she attended the Lowestoft and Waveney Chamber Women's Business networking event with our team and got to

meet many local businesses women and learn about their companies. Economic Development Programme Manager Marie Webster Fitch said of Zoe: "Zoe has been very well presented for work, polite and has been enthusiastic about all the work and tasks she has been given. We have also had a 17 year old Lowestoft sixth form student with us and Zoe has worked well with him on a number of tasks. Zoe has shown she has a strong ability to follow instructions, research, complete tasks to a high standard and offer constructive ideas to projects. I have received very positive feedback from all the staff she has spent time with this week. Zoe has gained confidence over the week and has settled into a large open plan office environment well." Well done Zoe!



Growth Hub Success

Waveney has seen a large number of companies achieve success with grant funding applications, thanks to strong collaborative working between the Council's economic development team and New Anglia Growth Hub advisers.

The Growth Hub provides access to a range of advice and services for businesses both new and well-established and there are two main grant schemes in operation: the Small Grant Scheme offers grants of between £1,000 and £25,000; the Growing Business Fund offers grants of £25,000 - £500,000.

Waveney has seen 18 companies receive a total of £111,121 in small grants – the highest number in the New Anglia region. 20 companies have received £1,285,091 in

large grants – the highest number in Suffolk. For example Global Chair Components in Reydon needed to modernise its warehouse operations to help keep up with demand for its products. They were awarded a grant of over £10,000 to buy a computerised warehouse management system, which has had a huge impact on their

productivity. Halesworth based Broadway Colours have been growing rapidly and needed to buy two more extruding machines to enable them to keep up with demand. They were awarded a grant of £40,000 towards the cost of buying the machines, which will result in the creation of five new jobs.

NEWANGLIA GROWTHHUB



eastsuffolkbusinessfestival.org

First ever East Suffolk Business Festival

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council will be launching the first ever East Suffolk Business Festival this year running from Monday 29th October to Friday 9th November.

The festival aims to raise the profile of East Suffolk businesses and seeks to connect business support and training opportunities together through this 10 day events programme. The festival will link with the well-established West Suffolk Business Festival and will create opportunities for businesses to

connect with each other and generate leads, to grow their business, widen their knowledge, offer training and development and create new opportunities for our local businesses.

Screen Suffolk will launch the Festival on Monday 29th October and we have commitment from many organisations who would like to be part of the festival. The final day of the festival will see events held at the annual East Suffolk Partnership Forum and the festival will be closed at the Lowestoft and Waveney Chamber 2018 Business awards.

We remember Lowestoft heroes

The families of Thomas Crisp and Claud Castleton paid tribute to the memories of these fallen Lowestoft heroes at a special dedication event at Waveney's Riverside building earlier this year.

Both were awarded the Victoria Cross for their incredible valour in service during the Great War - where they both lost their lives - and rooms at the council's headquarters have been renamed in their honour.

Family members from around the world were in attendance for this special event which saw Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of Waveney District Council, pay a special tribute to the men. Pictures of them, with replica versions of their VCs - which used to hang in the town hall were also specially rehung at Riverside.



Hundredth Remembrance



100 years ago in November 1918 the guns fell silent on the Western Front and the War to end all Wars was at an end. A war that touched almost every family in the UK and beyond within the Commonwealth.

As we approach the 100th Remembrance Day Service, the Lowestoft & District Branch REA are planning to hold a dinner in early November and invite all veterans and their partners to join them and remember those that have paid the ultimate sacrifice, allowing us to live in the peace and freedom we enjoy today.

Military associations within the town are being contacted in relation to the dinner. This notice is for those veterans that would like to attend but do not belong to an association.

Planning at present is still at an early stage, as we are trying to ascertain numbers, although the Hotel Victoria has been provisionally booked for the event. If you are interested in attending please call Cllr Stephen Ardley call: 07828 135 819 for further information.

Sara's close shave!

A Council officer recently experienced a 'close shave' to raise money for charity.

Sara Barratt, Customer Experience Officer for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, had her head shaved to raise money for the Flying Seagull Project.

The project has worked in 15 countries across the world to bring laughter to those in need, including bringing games, shows and play to children in refugee camps across Europe.

Sara, who organised the charity event to take place in her lunch break at the Council's Riverside building in Lowestoft, has already raised over £700. Sara said: "I heard about the charity about a year ago and was struck by their unique approach. They are silly, funny, slightly bonkers, but with a completely serious goal - to bring some laughter and moments of lightness into the lives of children who are in unimaginably difficult situations. Having the chance to relax and play and be children even for a little while must have such a beneficial effect on their mental health and wellbeing."

"People keep telling me what a brave thing I'm doing by having my head shaved. It's lovely to hear, but it's just a haircut. I know where my family are, and that they are safe. I have a home. I haven't had to abandon everything I know because of a war, travel to a strange country in fear for my life, live in a makeshift tent and try and make some sort of a life when I don't know where I will end up, and what will happen. That's brave."

Colleagues Helen Wright and Jo Stace wielded the scissors and clippers, with staff gathering to show their support. She also donated her hair, 47cm in total, to the Little Princess Trust. The Trust provides real hair wigs to children and young adults who have lost their own hair due to cancer treatment and other illnesses.

Donations can be made at

www.justgiving.com/fundraising/sarabarratt

Find out more about the Flying Seagull Project at

www.theflyingseagullproject.com

Find out more about The Little Princess Trust at www.littleprincesses.org.uk



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