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WITH YOU AND WAVENEY MARCH 2015



Third Crossing
Independent report in to options for third crossing in Lowestoft explained

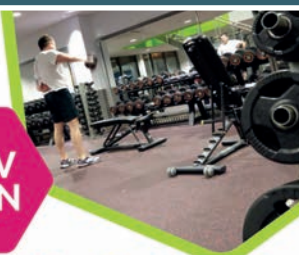
Fit for Waveney
£1.1 million invested in new leisure facilities

Funding boost
Green light given for £25 million flood protection scheme

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Serving the Community

LOWESTOFT RISING

Making Lowestoft a better place in which to grow up, live, work, visit and invest

www.waveney.gov.uk

www.twitter.com/waveneydc

www.facebook.com/waveneydc

Getting in touch

Please check www.waveney.gov.uk for any information you require. Accessing services online is quick and easy and helps you avoid having to wait in a queue!

Call us on **01502 562111**

We aim to answer your call within 20 seconds and to resolve your query at first point of contact. The telephone lines in our call centre are usually busy on Mondays and between 12-2pm each day. To avoid longer waiting times, please try to call us outside these hours.

You can send us an email to

customerservices@waveney.gov.uk

Please note: when visiting us the first and last days of the month are usually busy as residents pay their council tax bills.

Mondays are our busiest day and so is the period between 12 noon – 2pm. To avoid longer waiting times, please try to visit us outside these hours.

We are closed on all statutory bank holidays and weekends.

Our Opening Times

Marina Customer Services Centre / Contact Centre

The Marina Customer Service Centre (next to the Marina Theatre) Lowestoft, NR32 1HH.

Monday to Wednesday 8:45am to 5:00pm

Thursday 9:30am to 5:30pm

Friday 8:45am to 4:30pm

Marina Payments Office

Monday to Wednesday 8:45am to 4:45pm

Thursday 9:30am to 5:15pm

Friday 8:45am to 4:30pm

Accessibility: we have Hearing Loops /

Disabled Access

Or at one of our local offices: (please see our website for opening times)

Beccles – We have a customer service desk within Beccles Library, Blyburgate, Beccles, Suffolk NR34 9TB

Bungay Local Office, Broad Street, Bungay NR35 1EE

Halesworth Local Office, London Road, Halesworth IP19 8LW

Recognition is building!

Waveney's Building Maintenance department has been recognised at an award ceremony by the UK's largest voluntary data benchmarking service for UK local councils.

The Association of Public Sector Excellence (APSE) awards are based on benchmarking data looking at cost, quality and productivity across frontline local government services and took place at a ceremony in Blackpool in December.

The team is made up of around 120 staff who provide all aspects of repair, maintenance and improvement programmes to our

housing tenants living in our housing stock of around 4500 properties with £7.8m invested every year to ensure our housing stock is of a high standard.

The team are proud to consistently achieve satisfaction levels from tenants of around 95% for the work they complete.

Waveney's Building Maintenance department have been nominated five times since 2008 and in 2014 were nominated for Best Overall

Performer and Most Improved Performer. These important nominations acknowledge that the Building Maintenance department are providing a consistently high performing, efficient service to our housing tenants.



John Brown (Principal Service Manager), actress Gaynor Faye, Linda Jacob (Support Services) and Graham Critoph (Operations Manager).

streetlife.com
the local social network



Streetlife.com is helping build stronger, better connected communities and over 2,000 people across Waveney have already signed up!

The website provides a free and simple place for neighbours to share information, advice and recommendations. Already people, including those with busy lives or reduced mobility – are seeing the benefit of connecting with the local community.

Conversations on Streetlife have helped unite lost pets with owners, expose doorstep scammers, save

threatened public services and recall local history. The site is also encouraging real-world friendships, with neighbours sharing tools, IT advice and dentist recommendations, organising craft groups, street parties and book clubs. We want to help build stronger, better connected communities across Waveney, so visit streetlife.com to join the conversation. Get involved!

- Go to www.streetlife.com sign up with your postcode and email address
- You'll automatically be linked to the people and conversations where YOU live!

Waveney District Council's Twitter feed now has over 3,000 followers! For all the latest news and information head to twitter.com/waveneydc



Food hygiene training

Waveney's popular one-day food hygiene training courses continue in 2015.

The course is intended for anyone working in catering or hospitality. If you own a food business, you must ensure your employees are trained to handle food safely. New dates for spring & summer 2015 have been released for the one day CIEH Level 2 Award in Food Safety course:

13 April 2015

12 May 2015

3 June 2015

18 August 2015

Anyone who has completed the training within the past three years is encouraged to take the half-day CIEH Level 2 Award Refresher in Food Safety in Catering, taking place on 21 July 2015. Head to www.waveney.gov.uk/cieh for more details, to book and pay online.

Investing in a healthier future

A £1m investment into local leisure services by Waveney District Council has been celebrated at an official relaunch event.

Waterlane Leisure Centre, which is operated by Sentinel Leisure Trust in partnership with Waveney District Council, underwent a 14 week renovation project in the autumn, with significant improvements made to the gym and spa areas, as well as the conferencing facilities. The renovations were made in response to customer feedback and allows for further membership capacity whilst enhancing the quality of leisure facilities in the local area. Since initially undergoing an £8m redevelopment in 2012, membership capacity had been reached in less than three years. In response to this, Waveney agreed to fund a further £1.1m development which was carried out by Pulse Fitness, Waveney's strategic development partner. Cllr Stephen Ardley, Deputy Leader of Waveney District Council said:

"We are totally committed to delivering excellent leisure facilities to the community. This investment will enable us to increase memberships and the centre's revenue.

The partnership between Waveney, Sentinel and Pulse goes from strength to strength and the extension to the centre offers further health and exercise opportunities to everyone." During the redevelopment, a wo-floor 150 station gym was created, increasing the gym floor space by 50%. Meanwhile the existing beauty therapy zone and thermal suite were merged to form Rosie's Day Spa, offering customers a full spa experience with a 7-seater Jacuzzi and drench shower. With funding from Badminton England, the main hall was refurbished with mono-colour walls, new court dividers, posts and nets as well as an induction lighting system. As a result of the improvements, there has already been a 30% increase in court bookings.



For more details about membership, classes and other available activities, please visit waterlanelc.co.uk

Funding boost for local tourism



Waveney District Council has welcomed the award of nearly half a million pounds to help boost tourism in the area.

The award of £490,000 from the Coastal Communities Fund by the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) will support a project called 'Developing prospects on the Suffolk Coast: Economy, People, Environment', which aims to reinforce and expand the local tourism economy.

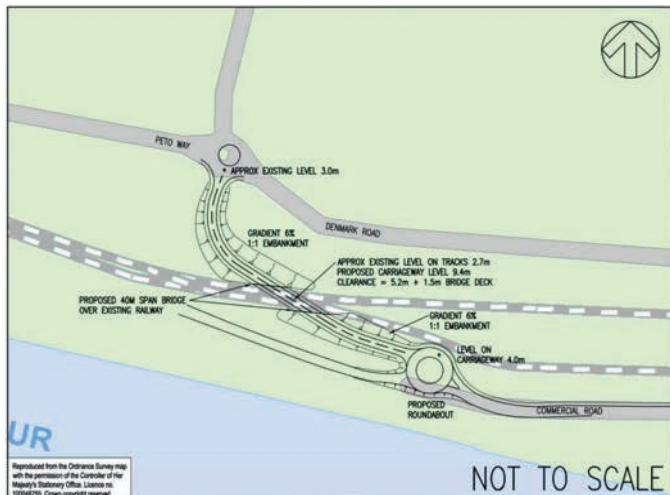
It will focus on developing key assets, delivering events and expanding activities to attract visitors, especially during off-season periods. Its aim is to create and safeguard jobs by enhancing the tourism offer in East Suffolk, encouraging more tourists to visit, to stay for longer and to keep visiting all year round.

The project will be delivered by members of The Suffolk Coast Ltd

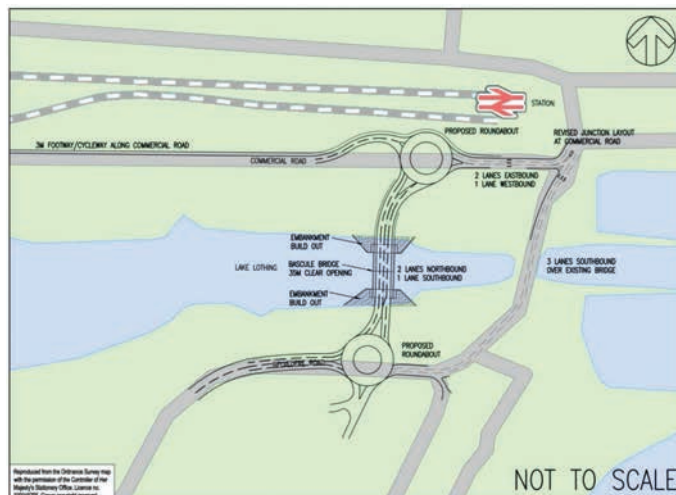
Destination Management Organisation (DMO) and Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB, working alongside Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. Cllr Bruce Provan, Waveney's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Economic Development and Tourism, said: "This is a real shot in the arm for Waveney and Suffolk. We are particularly pleased that this award will help us to greatly improve and secure the much-loved coastal path between Southwold and Covehithe, and to work with businesses in the Waveney area to improve even more visitors' experience when they visit us." The Suffolk Coast DMO was set up in 2012, bringing together the public and private sector. This funding will allow the organisations to address many of the objectives identified in the tourism strategy. Tourism is worth over £500m per year along the Suffolk Coast. providing nearly one in every nine jobs in the area.



Third crossing proposals welcomed



Proposed flyover from Denmark Road to Commercial Road. The latter would be improved.



Proposed junctions at new, eastern crossing, keeping traffic out of Station Square.

An independent study by engineering consultants, in to options for a new road crossing in Lowestoft, has been welcomed by business and political leaders.

Commissioned by Suffolk County Council, a detailed report by WSP analyses a range of issues relating to the potential construction of a new road bridge at Lake Lothing. The report considers the projected cost of different proposals, their ability to alleviate traffic and environmental impact, as well as the technical and engineering implications of any new scheme. The study can be read online and was also presented to the public at a meeting in February. The report establishes that Lowestoft would enjoy greater benefits from a new crossing built in an eastern location, close to the existing Bascule Bridge, rather than in either the west or centre of Lake Lothing. In doing so, it explains in detail how a number of different options would affect the town and, as well as considering specific locations, also assesses the projected impact and value for money of particular schemes, including the 'barrage' proposal. According to WSP, even without any land purchases, the eastern proposal would cost less, have a

positive impact on traffic and would have the least impact on port operations and future, vital growth opportunities. In considering the options, WSP observed that: "All options show a potential positive impact on the town centre traffic flows" but that the central option would have other negative implications, including serious impacts on harbour activities and the possibilities for attracting more in the future. Additionally, the report discounts the barrage proposal, saying that: "The implementation of the flood defence and road improvement scheme are not dependent on each other and are best dealt with independently of each other in terms of funding and implementation." In the central location, consideration was given to a simple road bridge as well as the 'barrage' scheme and two different options in the east which differed in how traffic flow was managed. Based on current prices, the cost of a central crossing, excluding land acquisitions, and any additional construction of barrage facilities, would be around £116.5 million. In the east, the cost would be around £94.5 million. In addition a 'cost benefit' analysis was undertaken. The positive ratio of 'benefit' to 'cost' - i.e. the net

benefits to transport users - would be greater with the eastern option (1.63) than for the central option (0.36). Waveney MP Peter Aldous is delighted that progress is being made. He said: "I welcome the publication of this comprehensive study, which helps identify the solution for a new road crossing, which best addresses the challenges of relieving congestion, improving access to the Town Centre and not constraining the growth of the port and those businesses located there. "There is a lot of work still to do, but I believe we now have a scheme that Lowestoft can get behind, enabling us to present a strong and compelling case to Government for the Third Crossing to be built as soon as practically possible." Cllr Mark Bee, Leader of Suffolk County Council, also welcomed the report, saying: "This report shows that a huge amount of work has taken place to get to this point and we are leaving no stone unturned. "Clearly, this is a hugely

expensive undertaking for any Government at a time when schemes throughout the country are seeking much needed funding. However, I am determined to do all we physically can to lobby Government and impress upon them the benefit of a new road crossing for Lowestoft." Cllr Colin Law, Leader of Waveney District Council said: "I know what a hugely important issue this is for Lowestoft and this is why we have been working so hard to present the case for funding. The Lowestoft Transport and Infrastructure Prospectus clearly lays out our determination to move this issue forward and I am very impressed by this detailed and thorough assessment of a range of options."

You can read WSP's detailed report on options for a third crossing in full on the Suffolk County Council website. Go to www.suffolk.gov.uk/environment-and-transport and in the 'Planning and Building' section click on 'Transport and Planning'. You will see the Lowestoft documents in 'Consultations and Studies'

Green light for £25m Lowestoft flood scheme

A project to deliver a permanent £25 million flood protection scheme for Lowestoft has moved a step closer with confirmation that the full funding is in place.

Following a commitment this week from Suffolk County Council to provide £3 million for the scheme, and confirmation of support from the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership, the project partners can now utilise a £7 million injection from DEFRA which was promised on the basis that all other funding was secured.

The pot also includes:

*** Up to £10 million from the New Anglia LEP Growth Fund pot**

*** £2.6 million from the Anglian Eastern Regional Flood & Coastal Committee flood fund**

*** Around £1 million from Waveney District Council largely towards project development costs.**

Current estimates for the cost of the project are closer to £20-25million which also includes an appropriate

contingency.

The aim now is to have a project outline, with all sources of funding identified in principle, ready for Environment Agency approval in April or May. Construction of the scheme would take around two years.

All partners are committed to working with local people, businesses and organisations and will be starting this engagement soon. This will include a public exhibition later this year.

Protecting residential and commercial properties from the combined effects of tidal, fluvial and surface water flooding will reduce the costs associated with development and encourage economic growth in the town. A strategic flood risk project group, comprising Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council, Associated British Ports, Environment Agency, Anglian Water, Lowestoft and Waveney Chamber of Commerce and others is overseeing this and is working together to deliver this scheme.

Cllr Colin Law, Leader of Waveney District Council said: "We have been working very hard, in partnership, to get to this point and I could not be more delighted. A viable, permanent flood protection scheme is vital for Lowestoft and this latest development shows that all our efforts have paid off."

Peter Aldous, Waveney MP, said: "This is a real boost for Lowestoft and I am delighted that we now have a firm commitment to the funding we need to deliver this important scheme. Partners have been working tirelessly behind the scenes and this will make a huge difference to the future of the town."



Next phase of beach repair scheme on the way



Following extensive lobbying, Waveney District Council has successfully secured an additional £2m of Defra funding for the next phase of coastal protection work at Lowestoft's south beach.

Cllr David Ritchie, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Planning and Rural Affairs said: "We are delighted to have secured funding from Defra for the next phase of coastal protection in Lowestoft. We have been lobbying the government

regarding a funding contribution for some time and now a grant has been confirmed, we can press ahead with further protection works to the south beach. We are aware of the importance of the Children's Corner area and will endeavour to restore public access to this part of the beach as soon as possible." In spring 2014, Waveney District Council agreed to embark on a two-phase project to protect sea defences and the promenade from further damage and approached the Environment Agency for funding. Funding for the first phase of works – to install a rock slope covering the vulnerable seawall – was agreed and this work began in the autumn.

The proposed Phase 2 work includes the installation of a pedestrian guard rail running from

Parade Road South to the East Point Pavilion, a replacement pedestrian and vehicle access ramp opposite the East Point Pavilion at Children's Corner, the creation of rock structures on the beach to protect the seawall from damage and beach nourishment using material taken from south of the Claremont Pier. Damaged copings will also be replaced. The work will also help to create and sustain a modest amenity beach.

Erosion studies have shown this section of beach is under unusually high erosion pressure which means the installation of a wide and healthy beach is not sustainable. However if the erosion pressure in this area reduces in future, this could allow a wider beach to be created and maintained.

Gearing up for biggest election day yet!

On the 7th May 2015, voters in the UK will go to the polls for the General Election to choose the Government for the next five years. Alongside the UK Parliamentary Election, elections will be held in Waveney for all 48 seats on Waveney District Council. Meanwhile, all of Waveney's Parish/Town Council seats will also be up for election with polls being held on 7th May for any contested areas.

This huge combination of elections will not occur again for another 20 years, and will see Waveney's Elections Team dealing with approximately 600 candidates in the run up to the polls.

Prospective candidates who are interested in standing in either the UK Parliamentary Election, District Council Elections, or Parish/Town Council Elections can obtain information about standing for election from the Elections Team at Waveney District Council by email at elections.wdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or by calling 01502 523618.

If you are considering standing as an Independent Candidate in the District and/or Parliamentary Elections information can be provided to give you a general introduction to the election process and then guide you through the Nomination Procedure, Postal Vote Information, Electoral Registration, Poll cards, Ballot Papers, Polling Stations and 'the Count'. If you are interested please contact the Elections Team at Waveney District Council by email at

elections.wdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

For further information about the role and responsibilities of being a District Councillor or to obtain a guidance booklet if you are thinking of standing as a Waveney District Councillor, please contact the Democratic Services Team by email at democratic.services.wdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk or by calling 01502 523212.

Date	Event	Details
Mon 23rd March	Notice of Election (Local Elections)	Start of the nomination period for the Local Elections – candidates nomination papers can be handed in from today (the 'Notice of Election' will give specific instructions for delivery of nomination papers including the days/times they may be handed in)
Thur 2nd April	Notice of Election (General Election)	Start of the nomination period for the UK Parliamentary Election. A £500 deposit is required with each nomination. Nomination papers can be handed in from 3rd April (details on the 'Notice of Election')
Thur 9th April (4pm)	Deadline for receipt of nominations (all elections)	Nominations must be delivered by the deadline of 4pm on this date
Fri 10th April (by 4pm)	Publication of 'Statement of Persons Nominated'	List of validly nominated candidates is announced
Mon 20th April	Deadline for registration	Deadline for voters to make sure they are registered on the Register of Electors so that they can vote on 7th May
Tue 21st April (5pm)	Deadline to apply to vote by post (or make changes to an absent vote arrangement)	Deadline for voters to submit an application form to vote by post at the elections on 7th May
Tue 28th April (5pm)	Deadline to apply to vote by proxy	Deadline for voters to submit an application form to vote by proxy at the elections
Thur 7th May	POLLING DAY	Hours of poll are 7am – 10pm

...But make sure you're registered to vote!

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

Previously, the 'head of household' was responsible for registering everyone who lived at the address, but now every individual is responsible for their own voter registration. The new system enables people to register online. Anyone registering for the first time under the new system will need to register themselves individually. You can register at www.gov.uk/register-to-vote or if you do not have access to the Internet you can call 01502 523320 and an advi-

sor can register you online over the telephone, however under the new system as well as your name and address you must now provide your date of birth and national insurance number when you register to vote, so please have these details to hand when you call. The last date on which you can register to vote in the UK Parliamentary and Local Elections on 7th May 2015 is 20th April 2015, however if you have recently moved please register as soon as possible, in case further enquiries regarding the application are necessary. For more information you can contact the Electoral Services Team at Waveney District Council by email at elections.wdc@eastsoffolk.gov.uk



Businesslike Waveney seeking new approach

Waveney District Council is rightly proud of the efforts it has made to reduce costs and make savings against a backdrop of austerity and cuts to public funding. However, the council still faces a number of challenges and must now work even harder to ensure that we continue to deliver the services that our communities need while facing even further reductions in the money we receive from central government.

Dwindling resources



Aside from fees and charges, the Council's ability to fund its spending plans is derived from two main sources.

A Central Government Grant and Council Tax. However Councils have faced - and continue to face - enormous financial pressures as detailed in our Medium Term Financial Strategy.

* 40% reduction in funding to local councils in last five years

* 5.8% real term reduction in council tax

* £12.4bn funding shortfall facing councils by 2020

* 60% of councils (surveyed) considering stopping some services in 2015/16

With a £4 million budget gap to close between now and 2018, the council is embarking on a comprehensive review of the way we deliver all services, adopting a refreshed "commercial and entrepreneurial" approach with the ambition of generating more of our own revenue.

We must be more business-like with a commercial and entrepreneurial approach to the financing of key services. This means better utilising our assets to generate more money, reviewing and enhancing our impressive service partnerships and developing a strategy enabling us to be financially self-reliant.

Already our commercial partnerships are a success.

Latest developments include:

* £1.1m expansion at Waterlane Leisure Centre to meet demand and generate an increase in membership revenue

* Further investment in Bungay Pool and Gym

* Operational savings for Refuse and Recycling service of £200,000 per annum following implementation of a four-day collection round method of working from May 2014.

These activities reflect the ambitions of our 10-year Business Plan. We must now grasp further opportunities to ensure a prosperous future for this council and our communities.

Leader confirms council tax is frozen once again



"We are delighted to have closed the budget gap for 2015-16 while also announcing a Council Tax freeze for the fifth consecutive year.

"This news shows that Waveney has met and exceeded the targets and challenges it has faced in difficult circumstances. There has been a remarkable 40% real term reduction to our net spending since 2011 and over £5 million in savings. This is all happening while the council continues to deliver important projects alongside the everyday services that the people of the district want and need. However, Waveney District Council does not want to rely on a dwindling Government grant system but instead take a longer term strategic approach which enables us to close a projected budget gap of around £4 million in 2018."

Colin Law - Leader, Waveney District Council

Single person council tax discount review

Waveney and Suffolk Coastal Councils are carrying out a review to identify anyone fraudulently claiming Single Person Discount on their Council Tax.

Each year councils nationwide receive a high volume of applications for Single Person's Discount. In both Suffolk Coastal and Waveney about 18,000 households currently receive a single person occupancy discount which gives them 25% discount in their

Council Tax when an adult is the sole occupant. While both authorities are aware that most residents are claiming the discount appropriately, there are however, a minority who are attempting to defraud the system. Legislation exists which allows those claiming the discount incorrectly to be awarded a penalty of £75.00 and will be made to pay back the money they owe.

Letters were sent out in December to all residents currently receiving Single Person Discount asking

them to explain their current circumstances. Not only will this ensure records are kept up to date, it will also give residents an opportunity to notify their local authority if there has been a change in their circumstances. Wrongly claiming the Single Person Discount for Council Tax may result in fines and having to pay the money back. Anyone claiming, whose situation has now changed, should contact the council to avoid such action.

Mike Barnard, Waveney's Cabinet

Member for Resources and Welfare Reforms, said: "Both local authorities would like to thank residents for their on-going cooperation during this review. This is a chance for residents to come forward and let us know their circumstances and will ensure that public money is protected with the discount being given to people with genuine needs." For more information and to complete the review online, Waveney residents can visit www.waveney.gov.uk/spdreview.

Powering up at Oulton Broad



Circuit powerboat racing has been a feature on Thursday nights at Oulton Broad for many decades at the oldest racing venue in the world!

The inaugural meeting was staged for steamboats in 1903, but it was not until 1933 that the current organising club - the Lowestoft & Oulton Broad Motor Boat Club - was formed.

Much of the excitement is generated by the high-speed risks taken by the drivers in

striving to get across the finish line first. Many of the boats are capable of reaching speeds of 100 mph, but fortunately, as in comparable motor sports, there are strict safety procedures. A typical club meeting comprises heats for at least two categories, from the 250cc racing outboards (which includes European Champion Wayne Turner from Beccles) to the spectacular 2-litre Supercats. Celebrating its 72nd season, the

LOBMBC has scheduled a 2015 race programme of 18-club meetings plus a round of the RYA British Championship. Viewing is available from the natural grandstand located at Nicholas Everitt Park, with a team of commentators on-hand to keep the spectators informed. Metered car parking is available locally with free admission to early season club events. For dates and further information visit www.lobmbc.org.uk

A special summer

After months of hard work, action group volunteers have announced the launch of Special Olympics Suffolk - a first for the county!

This new organisation will bring new coaching and competition opportunities for people with an intellectual (learning) disability across the county.

The occasion was marked with an official launch event on 16 November at Waveney Gymnastics Club in Lowestoft. This also included Special Olympics Suffolk's first gymnastics competition. Special Olympics Suffolk will not only promote opportunities for participation by people with an intellectual disability but also through coaching and competition provide a route to

national and international competition with National and World Games on a four year cycle like the Olympics and Paralympics. Crucial to success will be continued promotion and engagement through a wide range of partners such as education, the public sector, community organisations and media. Apart from being a participant, everyone in the community will have the opportunity to become involved in areas such as helping at a sports club, volunteering at an event or indeed contributing to behind the scenes organisation with activities such as fund raising, marketing and administration.

Murton Mann, Chair of Special Olympics Great Britain says: "On

behalf of Special Olympics GB, and from a personal point of view living here in our wonderful county of Suffolk, I would like to wish everyone involved in Special Olympics Suffolk every success. Congratulations and thank you to all those who have been involved in bringing Special Olympics to the county - the start of more opportunities for training, competition, personal development and fun for people in Suffolk with an intellectual disability and their families." For further information or to have an informal chat, contact either Terry McEntee: terrymcentee474@gmail.com / 07775 557784 or Matt Abbott: matt@elatussports.co.uk / 07846 510139.

Summer Sports Festival 16 - 19 July

Following on from the success and community involvement of the 2014 Queen's Baton Relay, Lowestoft is hosting a summer festival of sport! The festival will include schools activities, workplace challenges, a 'Women on Wheels' cycle festival, StreetVelodrome (see opposite) and lots of other activities to engage the whole family and get everyone involved in sport.

Streets ahead

Beat the Street comes to Lowestoft in June and July this year. This is a physical activity challenge for the whole community and aims to increase physical activity levels across the Waveney area.

By using radio frequency identification (RFID) technology, the competition is simple, engaging and inclusive for the player. Beat the Street turns an area into a real-life walking game where players register their movement by tapping RFID cards on 'beat boxes' placed around the town. The boxes flash and beep to register the activity, tapping two or more records per journey. Sixty thousand members of the public have played Beat the Street over the past three years.



Waveney says that “This Girl Can”



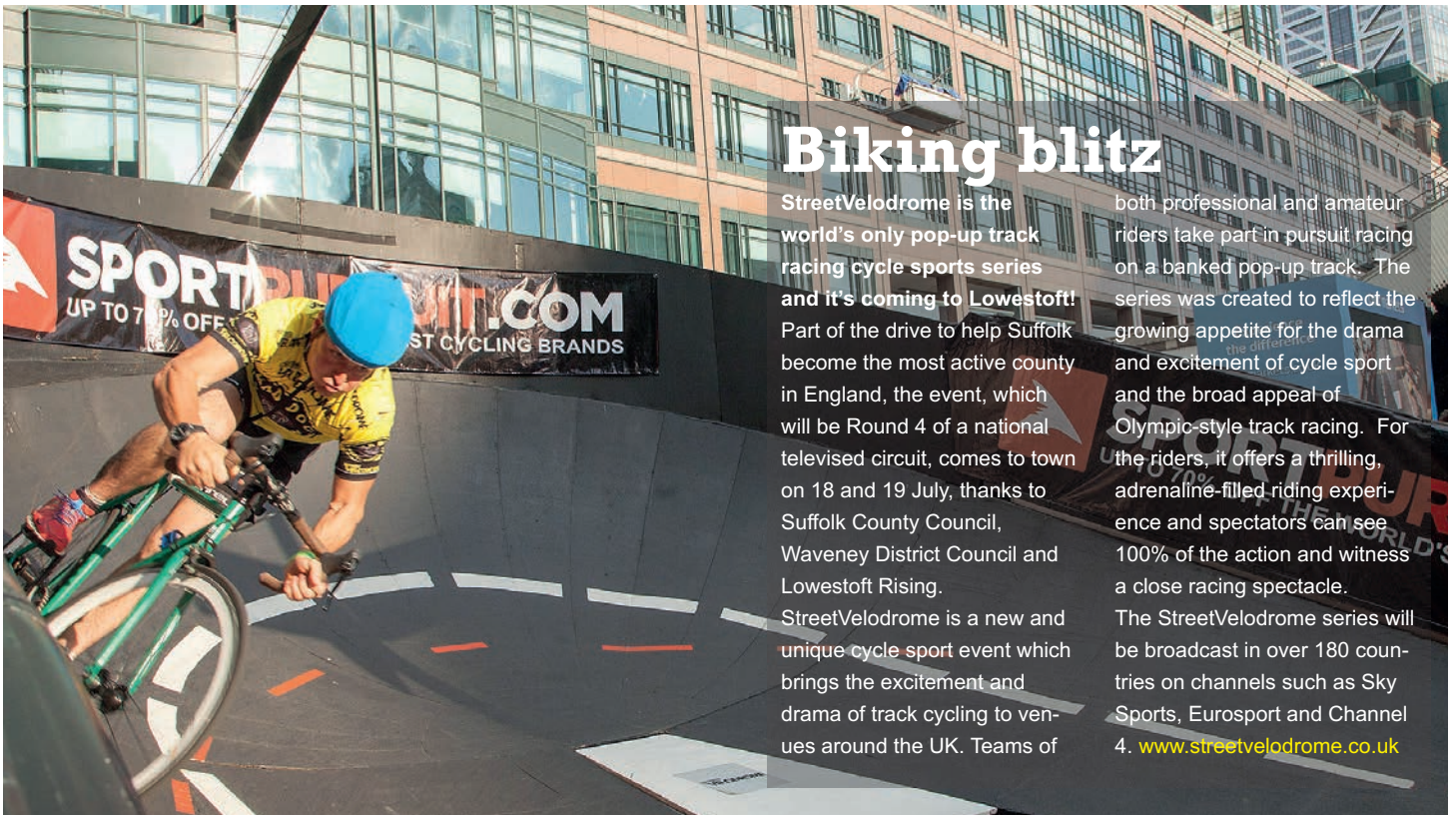
A national campaign has been launched to encourage and inspire more women to participate in sport, with the full support of Waveney District Council and the Sentinel Leisure Trust.

'This Girl Can' is a celebration of active women across the UK taking part in sport and physical activity without any worries about how they look. The campaign, developed by Sport England and a range of partnership organisations, has been created to inspire women and girls to be more physically active. Studies show that women play less sport than men and one of the major barriers preventing women participating in more sports activities is a fear of judgment - over their appearance, their abilities and their

choice to spend time on themselves rather than with family. This Girl Can aims to break down this barrier and show that women can exercise with confidence and without the fear of being judged. If you would like to try a new sport, there are hundreds of sports clubs, classes and activities in Waveney to choose from. Go to www.suffolk-sport.com and search for activities and events in your area. There is also a wide range of classes and activities at Waterlane Leisure Centre. For more information and inspiration, please visit www.thisgirlcan.co.uk and join in the conversation on Twitter using #thisgirlcan.

Sportsability on show

Waveney Sportsability is a registered organisation that aims to increase the amount and quality of provision for disabled sports and recreation in Waveney. This is achieved by working with partners to promote disability sports, raising the profile and providing a voice for disability sport and physical activity in the Waveney area. 2015 will see Waveney Sportsability's first independent delivery of a day of disability sport, taking place on 12 April. The day will feature gymnastics, football, boccia, cycling and many others. For more information, please visit www.waveneyportsability.co.uk



Biking blitz

StreetVelodrome is the world's only pop-up track racing cycle sports series and it's coming to Lowestoft! Part of the drive to help Suffolk become the most active county in England, the event, which will be Round 4 of a national televised circuit, comes to town on 18 and 19 July, thanks to Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council and Lowestoft Rising. StreetVelodrome is a new and unique cycle sport event which brings the excitement and drama of track cycling to venues around the UK. Teams of

both professional and amateur riders take part in pursuit racing on a banked pop-up track. The series was created to reflect the growing appetite for the drama and excitement of cycle sport and the broad appeal of Olympic-style track racing. For the riders, it offers a thrilling, adrenaline-filled riding experience and spectators can see 100% of the action and witness a close racing spectacle. The StreetVelodrome series will be broadcast in over 180 countries on channels such as Sky Sports, Eurosport and Channel 4. www.streetvelodrome.co.uk

All systems go for Halesworth Campus!

A project to create brand new community facilities in Halesworth is making great progress.

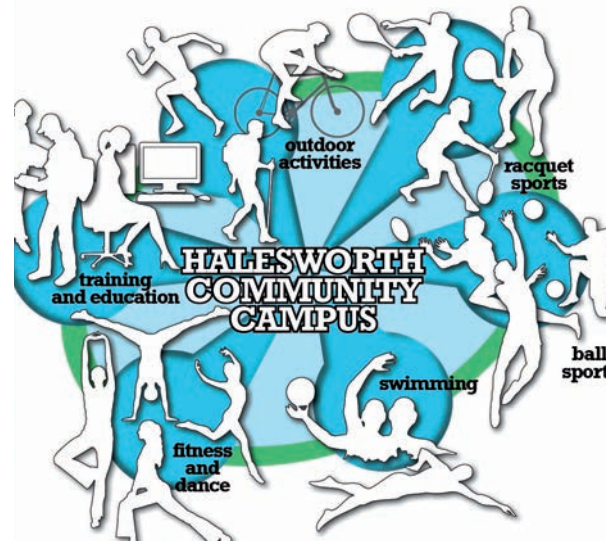
The Halesworth Campus Project was launched to address the lack of community and recreational facilities in the area. Following the closure of Halesworth Middle School in 2012, the project has aspired to secure the site and buildings for the benefit of the Halesworth community. Halesworth Campus Ltd (HCL), a registered charity run entirely by volunteers, aims to create a diverse range of facilities on the site, which could include grass pitches for football and rugby, a flood-lit all-weather playing surface, tennis courts, an indoor swimming pool, gym and café. The project is funded by donations and grants, including £50,000 from Sport England, £57,000 from Suffolk County Council and £60,000 from Waveney District Council for sports development.

As a show of support for the project, Suffolk County Council has donated the former Halesworth Middle School site, excluding the North Suffolk Skills Academy, to HCL and this transfer has now taken place. The site is currently

being maintained by Waveney Norse. HCL has recently commissioned a land drainage contractor to drain the existing grass pitches to a high standard. The drainage work, which is being funded using the Sport England grant, will begin once the soil is sufficiently dry. Other plans include the sale of the existing Dairy Hill playing field by Halesworth Playing Fields Association, which will raise funds for the campus facilities and allow creation of a new in-patient health facility adjacent to the Cutlers Hill GP surgery, as well as scope for a new housing development. The sale of the Dairy Hill playing field has not yet been agreed however it is estimated that a minimum of £2.5million will be made available to invest in the campus project. In addition to this figure, HCL is working hard to attract further funding which includes applications to sports governing bodies such as the FA and the RFU. Cllr Tony Goldson said: "The Halesworth Campus is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity for the town. With new sport and health facilities developed together, it will make a real difference to the physical and mental health of local people. As

Chairman of the Campus Project and councillor at both county and district levels, I am determined to continue the hard work we have put in and alongside fellow councillor Letitia Smith, we are looking forward to it opening in 2017." In order to evaluate potential de-

mand for the new facilities, HCL is undertaking a survey around Halesworth and twenty surrounding parishes. Over 10,000 questionnaires have been printed and the survey is also available online at www.halesworth-campus.org Building work for the campus could commence early in 2016 with an opening date estimated for 2017.



Banking better to save taxpayers money



LLOYDS BANK

We've changed banks and saved money at the same time. But there is nothing you need to do differently to pay your council tax, rent or other bills. Following the announcement by the

Co-operative Bank that they were no longer providing banking services to Local Authorities, the Council embarked on securing a new banking provider. Following a successful joint procurement exercise with Suffolk Coastal District Council, Lloyds Bank was awarded both Council's contracts commencing 1st April 2015. The

new Lloyds Bank contract presents a 50% reduction in the Council's banking charges for the next three years. Staff are working hard with Lloyds Bank to ensure a seamless switch over from the Co-operative Bank. If you pay your council tax / business rates / housing rents by direct debit, housing rent by Santander rent cards or other income by standing order, you will not need to take any action as these will automatically be transferred from the Co-operative Bank to Lloyds Bank, using the Bank Switch function.

Details of the Council's new bank accounts can be found on your 2015/16 bill or invoices you have received. If you pay your bill or invoice through your online banking provider, you will need to ensure you use the Council's new bank details, otherwise the payment will be rejected and not credited to your accounts. Please refer to the Marina Customer Services Office temporary closure article on page six of this magazine for alternative ways to pay.

Waveney residents are being encouraged to organise litter picking events and help clean up local public spaces.

Two recent picks took place; at Arnold's Bequest in Lowestoft and on Pakefield beach, thanks to Waveney District Council, Waveney Norse and the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum, along with volunteers from the local community. During the clean-up in Lowestoft, the team collected eight bags of rubbish and

some unusual items, including a mop, a folding chair and an estate agent's sign. Cllr Stephen Ardley, Deputy Leader of Waveney District Council took part and said: "Having seen the difference a litter pick can make, I would encourage people to get involved or even to organise an event themselves. However, it is also essential that we all do our best not to drop litter in the first place. Littering is anti-social and unnecessary."

To support the efforts of the volunteers, Waveney Norse will lend equipment such as litter pick sticks, disposable gloves and sacks. They will also collect the litter at the end of the event. If you are organising a litter pick, call 01502 527100 or email waveney.info@ncsgrp.co.uk with your name, contact details, and information about your planned pick. There is a small deposit for the litter picking sticks and equipment.



Picking up in Waveney!

Dog friendly

With summer approaching, dog walkers are reminded that dogs cannot be taken onto the main beaches at Lowestoft, Southwold, Corton and Kessingland between 1 May and 30 September.

For more information, please visit www.waveney.gov.uk and search for 'dogs on beaches'. Dogs must also be kept on leads in many designated areas in the district.

Dogs must always be kept under control particularly in places where there are likely to be children playing or other dogs or other animals. Please remember that a dog being 'playful' or 'boisterous' can be intimidating to some people - not everybody likes to have a strange dog jumping up at them!

Any dog can be classified as 'dangerous' and dealt with as such - for example, if a dog injures another person or animal, or if it makes someone feel as though they could be injured by it. By law, whenever in a public place, a dog must wear a collar and tag bearing its owner's name and address.

And remember - always take a dog poo bag with you when walking the dog. Please 'bag it and bin it' - any litter bin will do!

If you are affected by a problem with dog fouling, and have any information that can help us to deal with those responsible, please call 01502 527100.

Remember your Duty of Care!

Remember your Duty of Care - don't let your waste end up fly-tipped!

Householders are being urged to ensure that their waste is disposed of correctly. If you allow anyone other than Waveney Norse to take your household waste away, you must ensure that they are authorised to do so, so always take their details and ask for their Waste Carrier Registration number before you let them take your rubbish.

If your waste ends up fly-tipped,

and you can't give us details of who took your waste so that we can take the matter up with them, then it is you that can be held responsible and face a maximum fine of £5,000.

By checking that someone is authorised to take your waste and refusing to allow unregistered waste carriers to take it away, you are helping to tackle fly-tipping by reducing opportunities for illegal waste carriers to operate.

Traders: have you registered as a trade carrier yet...?

Local authorities across Suffolk continue to work with the police carrying out further inspections of vehicles as part of "Operation Tip-Off" to check that any trader who transports waste whilst going about their business is registered to do so with the Environment Agency.

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

generated in the course of your work, you need to register with the Environment Agency as a waste carrier, or risk a Fixed Penalty of £300, or a maximum fine of £5,000 if prosecuted, if found to be carrying waste.

The Environment Agency provide an online tool at

<https://www.gov.uk/access-the-public-register-for-environmental-information> to help businesses through the registration process.

Backing Waveney's small businesses

Waveney shoppers turned out in full force before Christmas to show their support for the abundance of small independent shops and services in the district's market towns.

On 6 December, many small independent businesses across Waveney played their part in Small Business Saturday by offering exclusive in-store discounts and promotional activities.

As part of the event, the Waveney Business Forum hosted a competition for Best Dressed Window. Judging took place throughout last week, with fierce competition from shops across Lowestoft, Kirkley, Beccles, Southwold, Bungay and Halesworth.

The winning window was The Marmalade Tree in Beccles. Lisa Stitchew, operations manager for The Marmalade Tree, was presented with the winning trophy by Waveney MP Peter Aldous and Kevin Vail, Chair of Waveney Business Forum. Mr Aldous also visited Bungay and presented Jackie Bell, owner of Bells of Suffolk, and her team with their well-deserved 'runner-up' prize. To show further support for Small Business Saturday, Waveney District Council

leader Cllr Colin Law visited shops in Bungay and Lowestoft before joining MP Peter Aldous and Cllr Mark Bee, leader of Suffolk County Council, at Beccles Farmers Market, to meet small business owners and sample some of the local goods on offer.

Cllr Law said: "It is heartening to see so many people supporting small local businesses, such as those at Beccles Farmers Market. Small independent shops and services are the mainstay of our local economy and the whole community needs to support these businesses wherever possible, to help them grow and thrive.

"Campaigns such as Small Business Saturday are an excellent opportunity to shine a spotlight on small businesses and reiterate the importance of customer support." Small Business Saturday is a national initiative and was supported locally by Waveney District Council and Waveney Business Forum. A number of shops received highly commended awards for their window displays; Gulls & Buoy in Southwold, Salvina's Traditional English Sweet Shop in Lowestoft, Gage Estate Agents in Kirkley and Just Nice Things in Halesworth.



Cllr Colin Law with Yvonne Baynes at Lodge Cordell in Bungay and with Lowestoft Vision's Darren Newman and Laurence Stafrace of Salvina's sweet shop in Lowestoft.



Important changes to cash payments

The Marina Customer Services building in Lowestoft town centre, including the cash office, will be closing during May 2015 to allow for refurbishment works to be carried out. Customers who pay their Council bills and invoices at the cash office are being requested to pay their bills by alternative means.

The best way to pay your Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing Rents is by Direct Debit. This is a faster and more secure method of payment. Once you have set up your Direct Debit there is nothing more to do as payments will be automatically debited from your bank or building society.

• To set up a Direct Debit through one of our advisers telephone: 01502 562111

You can also pay your Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Rents, Housing Benefits overpayments and Parking Fines online or by using our automated telephone payments line:

- To make an online payment visit: <http://www.waveney.gov.uk/payments>
- To make a payment using our automated payment line: call 0845 835 0137

You can also pay your Council Tax and Housing Rents using your local Post Office or local shop displaying the Payzone logo. You will need to request a payment card from our Customer Services team on 01502 562111.

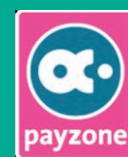
For your nearest Post Office go to www.postoffice.co.uk/branch-finder and enter your town or postcode.

For Payzone, go to

www.payzone.co.uk/Store-Locator select Utility and Bill Payments and enter your full Postcode.

These locations have longer opening hours than the cash office, so you can pay your bills at your convenience. There is no charge for this service.

For any other payments enquiries please contact our Customer Services team on 01502 562111.



Keeping the memory alive



On 27 January, residents, students and dignitaries gathered for a day of events to mark the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz.

In a poignant ceremony at Lowestoft Station, wreaths were laid by the Mayor of Lowestoft Cllr

Stephen Ardley, Cllr Peter Collecott, Chairman of Waveney District Council and by Merynn Levett from Waveney Youth Council.

Wreaths are laid at the station every year on Holocaust Memorial Day in recognition of the arrival of a 'kindertransport' train in December

1938, carrying over 200 Jewish children who had been evacuated from Nazi Europe. Waveney District Council is very keen that this important day should be marked and the events which the council organised, with partners, received national and regional tv coverage. Cllr Ardley said: "Holocaust Memorial Day offers the opportunity for reflection and remembrance and also teaches future generations about these terrible events and the importance of ensuring they are never repeated."

The ceremony was followed by an event at Ormiston Denes Academy, organised in conjunction with Waveney's Active Communities Team. Students from Ormiston Denes, the Ashley School Academy Trust, Benjamin Britten and Sir John Leman High Schools gave

presentations and readings. Memory boxes, made by pupils from St Mary's RC Primary School and Old Warren House School, were presented to older residents. The event ended with a commemorative candle-lighting which offered the opportunity for a moment of reflection honouring the survivors of the Holocaust and genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur. The candle, which was designed by internationally-renowned sculptor Sir Anish Kapoor, was lit by 93 year old Lilian Tilbrook and 10 year old Vialli McComb. Lowestoft was selected by the Holocaust Memorial Day Trust to be one of 70 venues around the UK to host a candle-lighting ceremony. Jo McCallum, Active Communities Officer for Waveney said: "Being the 70th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, the commemorations were this year of particular significance. The events, including the annual wreath-laying ceremony and the follow-on event hosted by Ormiston Denes Academy, provided a fitting tribute to the theme of 'Keep the Memory Alive'".

New harbour facilities catch the eye

With a range of new mooring, fuel and fishing facilities, Southwold Harbour is proving popular with leisure craft and visitors to the area.

Following extensive repairs to the dock wall, there are new services at the harbour to enhance its appeal as a tourist destination.

The harbour, which is managed by Waveney District Council, has new pontoon moorings with electricity for use by leisure craft. New shower and toilet facilities have also been introduced and it boasts a fuel dispensing service offering both white and red diesel.

Fishing facilities have been greatly improved thanks to the addition of a fishing compound with a freezer and lockable storage for fishing equipment. A crane for lifting catches and equipment from boats

has been installed with a berth for fishing vessels also now available. The £3.5million project was funded by Waveney District Council, with a £1.2m contribution from the European Fisheries Fund. Repairs began in 2011 and included vertical steel piling being positioned in front of the damaged wall.

Waveney District Councillor for Southwold Sue Allen said: "The harbour is the gateway to Southwold for those arriving by leisure craft and it is wonderful to see the new facilities being used. Visitors to the town can enjoy all that Southwold has to offer and the repairs to the dock wall will secure the long term future of the harbour." Since the introduction of the new facilities, councillors from Southwold Town Council and Waveney District Council have

formed a working group to manage the future of the Southwold Harbour Lands, which comprises the harbour, the caravan site and surrounding land. Southwold Harbour provides permanent and short stay moorings for the local community and visitors

to the district. Leisure boats are welcome throughout the year. Anyone wishing to access the harbour should contact the Harbour Master on VHF Channel 12 before entry. For more information or to book a mooring, please call the harbour office on 01502 724712.



Funding boost for Lowestoft

Following a Government award to the New Anglia LEP of a further £48.5m in funding, the Great Yarmouth and Lowestoft (New Anglia) Enterprise Zone, will benefit from £2.5 million future infrastructure investment in the Lowestoft area.

It comes just six months after the LEP's first Growth Deal was announced which secured £173m of investment in the New Anglia area. The new round of funding will deliver up to 2000 new jobs and 750 homes to the region by 2021. Overall it has the potential to unlock a further £120m in public and private sector investment.

NEWANGLIA

Local Enterprise Partnership
for Norfolk and Suffolk

The £2.5m for the Enterprise Zone in Lowestoft is for future infrastructure investment in the area, such as utilities, internal roads and construction of commercial and business units. In addition the LEP will support the development of flood defences in Lowestoft and will commit its resources, including from the Local Growth Fund and Growing Places Fund allocations. It will also support the preparatory work for options for the proposed Ipswich Wet Dock crossing. Mark Pendlington, chairman of New Anglia LEP, said "This is a great vote of confidence in our economic potential and a terrific boost to our ambitions as we work to create an Eastern Economic Powerhouse. Es-

sential to success is improved skills, world class innovation, improved transport and infrastructure and targeted help for small businesses to grow. We have taken another very big step forward today and it's the culmination of exceptional collaboration between the LEP, its partners from local authorities, education and business and our MPs."

"We now have a proven track record for securing Government investment and for delivering on our promises. Today's announcement builds on that success; delivering key new centres for engineering and skills, new jobs and apprenticeships, improved transsupport for the region's SMEs to help them grow and secure their long-term future."

Councillor Mark Bee, Suffolk County Council's leader and member of the New Anglia LEP board, said: "I am absolutely thrilled that such a generous level of additional funding has been announced for Suffolk; allowing us to further invest in projects that are vital to the prosperity of our region. This announcement demonstrates the level of confidence that government has in our LEP as well as the ability of its partner organisations to deliver outstanding results for the local economy. Through this significant extra support, we can continue to develop and implement much-needed projects and build on the partnership aims; continuing to bring economic benefit to communities and businesses across Suffolk."



Beccles improvements

A £70,000 project to resurface a car park in Beccles and install lighting has now been completed.

The car park, which is used by people visiting the scout hut, football and rugby club, indoor bowls club and the May Centre, was previously a sparse, muddy area, with potholes and without lighting.

Safety concerns had been raised and that the car park was not being used to its total capacity. A six week renovation took place which saw the car park levelled and resurfaced and 89 parking spaces have now been marked out.

The project was led by Councillor Graham Catchpole with assistance from town clerk Claire

Boyne and funded by a £29,000 grant from Beccles Town Council as well as grants from Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council, Beccles Indoor Bowls Club, Beccles Town Football Club, Beccles Regeneration Co, Beccles Townland's Charity, Beccles Rugby Club, Worlingham Parish Council and Section 106 contributions from developers.

Councillor Catchpole said: "We now have a car park which is fit for purpose and it has been achieved through community effort. I want to say a huge thank you to everyone who helped, along with residents living in Common Lane for their patience. The car park will remain free to use."

The Suffolk Coast Business Event – 25 March 2015

Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils are hosting an event for businesses in the area.

Targeted at SME's, micro-businesses and a few larger corporations in the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney area, the event has the theme 'Routes to Market' and will adopt a conference-style format. The outline of the event is to deliver real business benefit to all

delegates and a good Return On Investment for our sponsors and partners. Registration begins at 9am, followed by two key-note speakers; Richard Jackson MBE and a high-profile speaker put forward by The Suffolk Coast DMO. Each speaker will speak for 30 minutes. This will be followed by a break for networking, coffee and cake plus time to visit the stands.

There will be approximately 12 premium stands for organisations offering 'meet the buyer' sessions, delegate interaction and other business benefits. The master-classes will begin at 11.15. There will be up to four master-classes given over two 40 minute sessions. These will focus on topics such as business planning, market research, social media, export, how to pitch

and tender writing.

Lunch will commence at 1pm, consisting of an informal workshop where delegates choose a sponsored table to join and the sponsors then have a relaxed 'captive audience' for just over an hour. There is a £35 delegate fee which covers the whole event and includes refreshments. For more information or to book a place, please go to www.suffolkcoastbusiness.co.uk

Your community, your plans!



Neighbourhood planning is a hands-on way for your community to get involved in what happens in your area. Having your own plan allows you to manage the type and location of new development and also to influence decisions made on planning applications within your neighbourhood area.

Since the introduction of neighbourhood planning, four communities have taken up this opportunity and

are currently in the process of producing a Neighbourhood Plan for their area.

Kessingland was the first parish in Waveney to decide that they wanted to develop a neighbourhood plan and at the beginning of December started a consultation on an early draft of their proposed plan. The plan includes policies for determining planning applications in Kessingland and work is progressing with the community to identify

appropriate sites for potential new housing development.

Southwold is looking at what type of policies they need to develop to protect the special character of the town. A public consultation event was held in September where the community was invited to have their say on what they think should be included in the neighbourhood plan. Consultants are being appointed to help develop the plan over the coming months.

Following two successful community consultation events last year, Oulton Parish Council concluded that drawing up a neighbourhood plan was supported by the community. In January this year Oulton Parish Neighbourhood Area was designated by the Council. Oulton Parish Plan Steering Group is now progressing with the next stage of developing a plan for the village. Beccles, Barsham, Shipmeadow, Weston, Ringsfield, Ellough, Willingham, Shadingfield, and Sotterley have recently made the decision to produce a joint Neighbourhood Plan. An area designation application covering the parishes has just been received by the Council and a consultation will be carried out soon.

For more information on how to get involved in Neighbourhood Planning contact Planning Policy and Delivery Team by telephoning 01502 523082 or go to the website below.

www.waveney.gov.uk/neighbourhoodplanning

Improving local green spaces

A new green strategy has been launched to try and help improve and deliver the right type of open spaces for communities in the district.

The Green Infrastructure Strategy draws out the key findings in the Open Space Needs Assessment (completed March 2015) and Waveney's Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sports Facilities Assessment (completed July 2014).

The Open Space Needs Assessment identified the amount of open space available for communities to use and the facilities on these sites. Open spaces considered in the assessment include parks & gardens, play space, allotments and churchyards. The importance of natural

and semi-natural green space for biodiversity has also been considered.

A recent public consultation provided an opportunity for communities to highlight issues in their area and responses have contributed towards the final documents.

Together the Open Space Needs Assessment and Green Infrastructure Strategy will help planning decisions to improve and deliver the right type of open spaces. Additionally, the documents may help local communities when they consider how to improve open spaces for the needs of the community or support discussions about future plans.



Learn more at waveney.gov.uk/planningpolicy

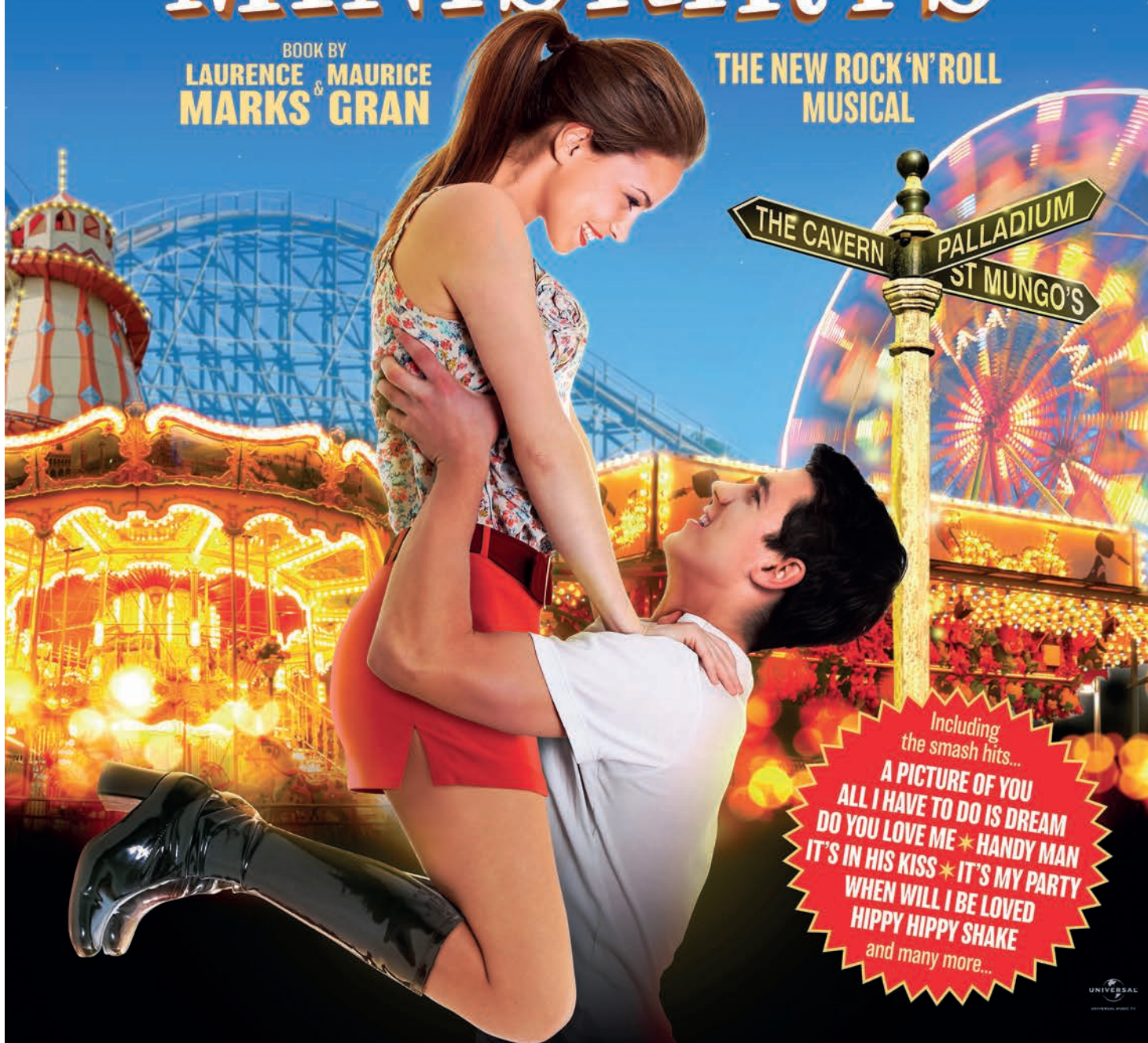
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