intouch!

WITH YOU AND WAVENEY DECEMBER 2013





Getting in touch

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

Call us on 01502 562111

Monday to Wednesday 8:45am to 5pm Thursday 9:30am to 5:30pm

Friday 8:45am to 4:30pm

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

At all our locations we provide public access to computers allowing our customers to view appropriate websites and other useful Council information.

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

Marina Customer Services Centre

The Marina Customer Service Centre (next to the Marina Theatre) Lowestoft.

Opening Times

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

Thursday 9:30am to 5:30pm

Friday 8:45am to 4:30pm

Payments Office

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

Thursday 9:30am to 5:15pm

Friday 8:45am to 4:30pm

Accessibility

Hearing Loops / Disabled Access

Or at one of our local offices:

Beccles Local Office, 6 Market Street

Beccles NR34 9AQ

Bungay Local Office, Broad Street

Bungay NR35 1EE

Halesworth Local Office, London Road

Halesworth IP19 8LW

Opening Times for Local Offices

Monday to Thursday: 9.00am to 1.00pm and

2.00pm to 4.30pm

Friday: 9.00am to 1.00pm and 2.00pm to 4.00pm.

New faces

Following by-elections earlier this year, Waveney has two new councillors.

Labour's Janet Craig is the new member for the Harbour ward after voting took place in May. Then in August, Len Jacklin - also Labour - was elected to the vacant seat in Oulton. This by-election was called following the sad death of Cllr Mike Ives-Keeler.

Mike, who was 57 and died after a short illness, was a loving husband and father to wife, Wendy and daughters, Emily and Catherine. Leader of the Labour Group, Tod Sullivan said: "I knew Mike for some time before we realised our mutual interest in Labour politics. I came to regard him as a friend as well as a close and trusted colleague."





Life partners

Beaches across Waveney are now protected by a world famous lifesaving organisation following an agreement with the RNLI to provide lifeguard services.

The partnership brings many benefits to our local beaches including an increase in lifeguards to both Lowestoft and Southwold beaches, improved emergency aid equipment, improved youth education and employment opportunities - all at no extra cost to Waveney.

The Royal National Lifeboat Institution is a hugely respected charitable organisation, made up of volunteers, which provides safety at sea with 24 hour on-call lifeboat search and rescue services and a seasonal lifeguard service. They were established in 1824, meaning they've been saving lives at sea for almost 200 years. Cllr Stephen Ardley, Waveney's Deputy Leader and Cabinet member for Commercial Partnerships said: "We are delighted to have agreed a contract with the RNLI and we're hugely impressed with the level of service the beaches of Waveney now receive."

Darren Lewis, RNLI Senior Lifeguard Manager, said: "The RNLI is delighted to have provided daily patrols on beaches in Waveney for the first time this summer. Building on the expertise we have developed through 12 years of providing beach patrols, our new lifeguards trained hard



for what turned out to be a busy season."
For more information on beach safety and how to support the RNLI, visit their website at www.rnli.org/beach. For more information on lifeguard job opportunities contact daniel_tyler@rnli.org.uk.

Pride Park

A Lowestoft Park is celebrating after receiving a prestigious award for the third year running.

The Green Flag award is awarded to 'green spaces' which are considered the best in the country for maintenance, facilities and management, and Nicholas Everitt Park has been recognised in this year's awards. It's been a real team effort with volunteers at the park in Oulton Broad working closely with Waveney Norse to create an environment everyone can be proud of.

Richard Hackney of Waveney Norse said: "Once again special mention must go to the Friends of Nicholas Everitt Park whose tireless efforts throughout the year, I know, will have impressed the judges. We have been fortunate to have a dedicated workforce, volunteers and supervisors who have all ensured the park continues to flourish and improve."

Cllr Stephen Ardley, Waveney District
Council's Cabinet Member for Commercial
Partnerships said: "The partnership
approach is key to our success and all those
involved should be extremely proud of their
contribution. The Green Flag is recognition
for all of the effort put in to making Nicholas
Everitt such a wonderful green space."

How are we doing?

As part of our 'Business Plan' - which maps out the Council's social and economic vision for the next 10 years - we identified seven key themes which represent our primary purpose as a progressive 21st Century Council and reflect the issues that you tell us matter to your quality of life. Each of these themes is crucial to the balanced delivery of services and each contain priority ambitions.



Economic Development, Tourism and Leisure

- Promote economic growth and generate inward investment to stimulate a prosperous, innovative, diverse, sustainable and dynamic economy that optimises enterprise.
- Promote increased access to quality leisure and cultural facilities and activities.

Customers and Communities

- Always put customers first when we plan and deliver services and provide different ways for people to fairly access the services that are required effectively and efficiently.
- Build the 'Big Society' by developing a diverse mix of strong, proud, caring and supportive communities that value their rural and coastal heritage, are aspirational for themselves and for the future; feel engaged,

valued and empowered.

 Develop communities where people's needs are met and where they can, and do, as individuals make a difference to their community.

Planning and Coastal Management

• Promote and support the well managed development of sustainable, thriving communities, with the quality facilities and services needed for a growing economy, whilst preserving the historic and natural environment and pro-actively managing the effects of our changing coastline.

Housing and Benefits

 Tackle poor housing conditions, and encourage the improved provision of, and access to, appropriate housing to meet existing and future needs. • Promote and provide timely access to welfare benefits.

Community Health

 Protect and promote the health and well-being of all our communities to ensure they remain safe from harm, and able to live healthy lifestyles.

Green Environment

 Protect, enhance and make sustainable use of our environment; creating an attractive and accessible rural, coastline and urban environment for the people who live, work and visit the area; providing a rich and diverse legacy for future generations.

Resources

 Embrace a more business like approach in directing resources to support the delivery of key services whilst optimising both quality and performance.

2014-15: Crunching the numbers

The scale of the financial challenge facing councils is enormous, with continued cuts in Government funding creating budget gaps which are increasingly difficult to fill.

From April 2014 until March 2016 a further £2.6 million will be cut from the money we receive from the Government; just under HALF of the money they currently provide us.

The Council Tax we receive is another income stream and clearly enables us to finance the delivery of services to our communities. However of the £49.7million paid by the people of Waveney, it is worth remembering that we, the district council, receive only £5million – just over 10% - with the remainder shared between the County Council, the Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Suffolk and town & parish councils. In addition 2012-13 saw Waveney FREEZE the portion of council tax it receives for the third year running.

Leader of the Council Colin Law said: "We must rise to even bigger challenges as reductions take effect. This is why we launched our Business Plan - to show that Waveney means business and to show that our financial planning must be with the longer term in mind. The days of simply chipping away at budgets is at an end and we must seek ways to encourage growth, encourage businesses and help our economy prosper.

"Waveney District Council has continued to meet these challenges robustly and this will not change. However further changes to the way we deliver services will clearly need to be made, using our Business Plan priorities as the anchor for the decisions we take. "And, as ever, we want to know what YOU think."

Email budget14@waveney.gov.uk with your thoughts.

Email: budget14@waveney.gov.uk

Throughout this magazine there are examples of how the Council is trying to meet these priorities in all areas; from Housing and Benefits to the Green Environment. To the right is an assessment of the financial situation affecting councils.

Times are very hard and will continue to be for some time. But how are YOU affected? Are we meeting our priority ambitions? Where can we improve? What would you like us to do?

We want to hear from you.

It's 'yes' for scheme to save taxpayers money

A project which will see the construction of new council office accommodation in Lowest-oft passed a major milestone when planning consent was granted for the scheme.

Construction will now begin ahead of completion and occupation in early 2015. The new, energy-efficient building will house around 500 staff from Suffolk County Council and Waveney District Council. By vacating old and inefficient buildings, which itself will also assist with the regeneration of the town centre, this project will reduce taxpayer costs by around £3 million over 10 years.

The building will be located in the eastern part of Kirkley Waterfront, in an area already earmarked for office use, and is part of a wider programme which will also create a new shared customer facility at the Marina Centre in Lowestoft town centre.

Cllr Colin Noble, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member for Finance and Property, said: "This project is all about delivering services more effectively and efficiently for the benefit of Lowestoft, and at the same time reducing overall costs.

"Remaining in our existing properties is not an option because of their age, design, poor condition and increasing maintenance costs. Equally they do not support the way we want to deliver services for Suffolk people. Developing this new accommodation demonstrates both councils' commitment to working together in order to deliver the very best services for local people."



District Council said: "By vacating unsuitable buildings which are very expensive to maintain, this is a project which will save Waveney taxpayers millions of pounds and help regenerate a previously neglected part of Lowestoft.

"These are exciting plans which form part of a wider project that will also provide a far more convenient, shared customer centre for both councils right in the town centre. It is a project which will genuinely benefit our communities in so many ways."

The planning application itself details the exact size and dimensions of the proposed building, the external space around it and the materials which would be used for the build as part of what the report calls a "contemporary and distinctive" design. It also explains how high standards of sustainability and environmental performance would reduce both the carbon footprint of the building and running costs.

The building would use controlled daylight, to reduce the use of artificial lighting and would have high standards of insulation and sealing to minimise heat losses. The plans also include conference facilities, a café which would be open for public use and a tree-lined public plaza to the front of the building.

Other sites were considered and reiected, "due to size constraints and poor accessibility and because they did not have the potential to meet the requirements of both Councils." Meanwhile this particular site is "in an accessible location with good public transport and pedestrian / cycle links to the town centre." Other sites were also discounted because they "would not be cost effective in much the same way that refurbishment of existing sites occupied by Waveney and Suffolk County Council would not be cost effective."

A wider public consultation was

also staged with no material objections raised during the display of plans for the site earlier this year. 90 neighbouring commercial and residential properties were notified of the planning application and, to date, there has been one submission of objections to the project.



This is a project which will save Waveney taxpayers millions of pounds and help regenerate a previously neglected part of Lowestoft.

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- Cllr Colin Law

Councillor Law: what will happen to the Town Hall?

"Any suggestion that we are abandoning the Town Hall without any thought being given to its future is unfair and plain wrong.

"The simple fact is that no decision

has yet been made about the Town Hall and any decision will ONLY be made following discussion and engagement with our local communities. I would like to reassure everyone that our communities will be involved in discussions about the future of the building and that, whatever happens, it will have a future which protects the fabric of this wonderful, historic site.

Meanwhile are delighted that devel-

opment on part of the site at Compass Street has brought much needed housing and families in to the area – all using facilities and spending money in the North end of town. (See page 7).

Remarkable turnaround for Leisure Trust

The future of leisure in Waveney is looking bright thanks to a recovery plan which has seen the Sentinel Leisure Trust turn projected debts in to a six figure profit to be reinvested in facilities for the district.

The charitable trust, established by Waveney District Council in 2010 to manage a range of leisure operations, has paid back a £300,000 loan to the Council and is presenting a likely profit of over £300,000 for the financial year 2013-14. "This is an absolutely stunning achievement," said Cllr Stephen Ardley, Waveney's Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Green Environment and Operational Partnerships. "Last year, when we became aware of a number of financial issues, the Council took immediate action to secure the future of the trust and entirely overhaul its financial and business model. The fact that we are here today talking about turning a profit so soon after is nothing short of remarkable." A restructure has led to staff savings of over a quarter of a million pounds and a monthly improvement in income of over £16,000. In addition, the trust has also been able to invest a further £300,000 in Bungay Pool and Gym, improving gym equipment, changing rooms and more besides. Andy Wilson-Sutter, the new Chair of Sentinel Leisure Trust, praised



the efforts of staff as well as the outstanding partnership work with the Council. He said: "The staff here have been nothing short of amazing. The financial problems we faced created huge uncertainty. Contract renegotiations, with salary reductions, were simply unavoidable. However, everyone has continued to work extremely hard and it is clear that they understand why we had to take these steps. They are a credit to the organisation. "I could not be more pleased with what we have achieved in partnership with Waveney District Council and would also like to thank my fellow trustees for their hard work and commitment. Although we are still in recovery mode, the projections

for Sentinel are now excellent." In addition, and as part of the review of operations, Sentinel and Waveney are also delighted to confirm that Costa Coffee is now being served at Waterlane as part of a new franchise agreement with local providers Churchill Catering. This new arrangement will guarantee increased income for the Trust. Cllr Ardley continued: "A promise was made last year that this business would be turned around and that the money borrowed from the Council would be paid back - and these promises have been kept. The introduction of Costa Coffee shows that we are an attractive proposition to large international brands and this is just the start."

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"The Council took immediate action to secure the future of the trust and entirely overhaul its financial and business model

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- Cllr Stephen Ardley

The RPO is back in town!

The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra (RPO) has confirmed that it will remain in residence at Lowestoft's Marina Theatre into 2014, signalling an historic tenth year of association with the Edwardian yenue

In 2005, The Marina Theatre, owned by Waveney District Council, secured its current partnership with the RPO and the highly successful relationship has since brought a host of World renowned conductors, musicians and soloists to the East Coast. Announcing the news, Marina Chief executive, Martin Halliday said: "We are absolutely thrilled to confirm that the magnificent Royal Philharmonic Orchestra will remain with us into 2014. "I would like to thank the Orchestra for their ongoing commitment to both the Marina and our town and look forward to an exciting pro-

gramme of events in 2014 as we celebrate an historic tenth year." Cllr Stephen Ardley, Deputy Leader of Waveney District Council added: "We are absolutely delighted that the RPO will be returning to the Marina Theatre for a tenth year. The association means a great deal both to the theatre and the town of Lowestoft itself and reflects the Marina's standing as a cultural jewel in the region."



Helping you with Housing Benefit

Are you currently in receipt of Housing Benefit?

Does your Housing Benefit not meet your full rent amount?

Have you been affected by a reduction in your Housing Benefit due to Welfare Reform?

If you have answered YES to any of the above questions then you may be entitled to receive help courtesy of a Discretionary Housing Payment.

Not only are funds available but also support & advice with managing outstanding debts and general budgeting where that would help. The Council has recently helped a Miss A who previously received Housing Benefit of £104.04 per week for her full rent liability with a Housing Association.

The Benefit Cap has reduced her Housing Benefit from 22nd July to £81.89 per week, a reduction of £22.15. A discretionary Housing Payment has been awarded to help Miss A adjust to the reduced Housing Benefit whilst she receives advice on a range of options possibly available to her.

If you would like to make an application, a printable form is available from our website at www.waveney.gov.uk/dhp or you can contact us on 01502 562111, or email benefits@waveney.gov.uk or in person at The Marina Customer Service centre in Lowestoft.

Funds are limited so please do make an application as soon as possible so we can help you.



www.waveney.gov.uk/dhp

Working together for the next generation

A forum led by Waveney
District Council to identify some
of the reasons for poor levels of
academic attainment in some
local schools has identified a
number of potential projects
and initiatives to encourage
improvement.

The meeting, which was led by Waveney's Active Communities Team, brought together head teachers, deputy heads and PHSE leads from high schools and special schools across Waveney to identify some of the contributing factors to the poor levels of academic attainment in some of our schools.

Representatives from Suffolk County Council and Public Health presented information on the developing Suffolk Teenage Pregnancy Strategy and the impact of a scheme which identifies young people's attitudes towards risk taking behaviour.

The revised Personal, Social and Health Education (PSHE) programme was explained and an update was also provided on the U-Explore initiative and how this can provide young people with a direct route to employers, career paths and advice to raise aspirations.

Waveney District Council recognises the need to be proactive in supporting young people by providing the information, support and opportunities that young people need to remain in school and achieve their full potential. It is understood that poor levels of attainment are often linked to issues within families who may become involved with crime or anti social behaviour, who lack positive role models affected by family unemployment and all often resulting in poor school attendance. A brief

presentation was also provided on the positive work already taking place across Waveney to support these families as part of the Suffolk Family Focus initiative.

Cllr Frank Mortimer, Waveney
District Councillor and Cabinet
Member for Customers and
Communities said: "We are really
keen to work with partners in
Waveney to raise the aspirations of
young people and work to address
some of their under-lying issues.
We look forward to continuing to
engage with schools and local
providers on this issue."

Waveney received positive feedback from attendees, particularly identifying the importance of strong partnerships between local authorities, schools, health and partner organisations in finding ways to meet the needs of our young people. As a result, a further event is planned for later this year.

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We are really keen to work with partners in Waveney to raise the aspirations of young people

- Cllr Frank Mortimer



Affordable housing for Lowestoft



see this scheme come to fruition, the feedback from local people has been very positive

- Cllr Sue Allen

A brand new social housing development has been officially opened in Lowestoft, providing much needed affordable housing in the Town centre location.

Craig Fleming, Director of Football at Lowestoft Town Football Club, presided over the official opening of Orbit East's affordable new housing development at Compass Street. The opening ceremony provided an opportunity for local authority leaders, councillors, partners and residents to view the new housing scheme, which has been praised for its design and visual impact.

Building contractor Dove Jeffrey joined forces with Orbit East to host the event at the 23-property development, which completed in August. The site transforms some of the former Waveney council offices and High Street car park into affordable housing for the Town. The homes accommodate a range of households, comprising 12 one and two bedroom flats for smaller households and eleven family houses.

The site was secured by Dove Jeffrey Homes, who achieved planning approval and brought the scheme together, with Orbit East taking on the homes once complete. The total scheme cost was around £2.5 million, with Orbit securing £874,000 from the Homes and Communities Agency (HCA) in addition to their own development loan, to complete the scheme. The site was included in Waveney's Local Development Framework as an area for redevelopment at the 'Northern end of the historic High Street in the North Lowestoft Conservation Area'.

Paul High, Executive Director of Orbit Homes said: "This was an

ideal opportunity to showcase the hard work and expertise demonstrated by all involved in the project. We are very proud that these high quality new homes will provide affordable accommodation to the people of Lowestoft for many years to come."

Sue Allen Cabinet Member for Housing at Waveney District Council added: "I am delighted to see this scheme come to fruition, the feedback from local people has been very positive and points the way forward for the regeneration of this part of the Town."

Tenants getting best service in the country!

A benchmarking study has shown that Waveney District Council's Housing Team is at the very top in terms of the services it provides to its tenants. In addition, the survey also reveals that Waveney Council has some of the lowest costs in the country.

To measure performance in an effort to maintain high standards, the Council voluntarily participates in a national 'benchmarking' exercise of 50 providers, which compares housing performance and costs across the Council and Housing association sectors. It

analyses performances in a range of areas from rent collection to housing repairs.

It is undertaken by 'HouseMark' which was set up in 1999 and is jointly owned by the Chartered Institute of Housing (CIH) and the National Housing Federation (NHF), two not-for-profit organisations dedicated to improving housing standards. They are committed to working for, and with, the sector to improve performance, value for money and efficiency. The figures, which relate to 2011/2012, make excellent reading with Waveney ranked

highest for satisfaction with the repairs service (93% satisfaction), and highest, of all councils measured, for low cost management. Cllr Sue Allen, the Portfolio Holder for Housing said "We are really pleased that the hard work of our housing staff, who deliver a great service for our tenants, is being recognised. We know how important value for money is in these difficult times and to have high satisfaction and low cost is a great example of a housing service that works almost perfectly. However we will not rest on our laurels and will strive to make improvements,

with ongoing investment in our housing stock and new IT systems to ensure everything runs even more smoothly."



An active community summer

A five-week summer programme of activities organised by the Active Communities Team at Waveney District Council has been hailed a success with over 200 young people taking part.

The aim of the summer-long scheme was to encourage young people aged 8-17 years to take part in a range of fun activities, and to improve their social and communications skills as well as keeping active. By ensuring the events were free of charge, the problem of cost for activities during the summer was removed.

The activities on offer were selected after a consultation with young people earlier this year and included dodgeball, judo, volleyball, futsal, power kites, rugby, kwik cricket, assault course, street dance, dj'ing & beat boxing, tennis, table tennis, rounders, running and much more. Activities took place over two days each week, at two popular locations, throughout the summer; Normanston Park and Lowestoft's South Beach including The Royal Green.

The success of the programme was made possible with funding from Waveney District Council, Active Waveney Sports Partnership and the Community Safety Partnership (CSP).

Improving the Norm

One of our flagship outdoor venues traditionally host to football, cricket and tennis, has recently undergone some development work.

Normanston Park in Lowestoft has seen the introduction of a brand new concrete skate park; newly installed concrete table tennis tables funded by Sport England; and running 'interpretation boards' funded by Waveney District Council, in partnership with Waveney Valley Athletics Club & Waveney Norse.

And that's not all! Further development is planned for the site so watch this space.

Equally important was the support and voluntary hours put in by the activity providers, including the NHS, Lowestoft & Yarmouth Rugby Club, Suffolk Artlink, Goshindo Judo Club, Simon Jordan Tennis Coaching and the Lowestoft Police cadets. By linking up with these local providers, young people have the opportunity to continue with their chosen activity now the programme has come to an end.

The events culminated in the presentation of certificates to all participants by Councillor Mary Rudd, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Colin Law, Leader of Waveney District Council

Cllr Law said: "This project has been absolutely fantastic, providing a range of brilliant activities for people who may not ordinarily be able to afford them. There has been a real partnership approach to this scheme and we are very proud of what has been achieved."

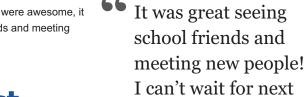
Charlie Botten, aged nine from Carlton Colville, attended the sessions and loved them. He said: "The activities to choose from were awesome, it was great seeing school friends and meeting new people!

"I can't wait for next year."



Access to sports provision FOR ALL is a priority for Waveney District Council and 2013 has seen a huge amount of work put into securing funding to purchase a swimming pool hoist for Waterlane Leisure

The hoist, which will cater for people with complex disabilities costs £19,000 to purchase and the disability sports group, Waveney Sportsability, and the Waveney Disability Forum have worked incredibly hard to source funding from Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council Locality funding, HealthEast and Sentinel Leisure. The hoist will be purchased soon and installation will follow shortly after.



year.

- Charlie Botten, aged 9

For more information about sports development in Waveney, please get in touch with Claire Henwood, Active Communities Officer for Leisure on 01502 523010 or claire.henwood@waveney.gov.uk



How fit is YOUR village?

Would you like to take part in fun, fitness events in YOUR village?

Fit Villages is a 'Suffolk Sport' scheme which gives local communities the chance to run subsidised sporting and physical activity sessions from local facilities such as village halls, community centres and recreation grounds. Projects have taken place around Waveney in Somerleyton, Kessingland and Southwold, but more villages are encouraged to participate! For more information contact Henry Tapp at henry.tapp@suffolksport.com.

Super siblings' special swim

From inexperienced swimmers to fundraisers in an open water swim, Chloe and Liam are an inspiration and Waveney District Council is delighted to have helped them achieve something really special.

The brother and sister duo first had contact with the council through a new initiative, Suffolk Family Focus, which supports families back into education, training and employment as well as encouraging young people to take part in new activities. Their family had been through difficult times and they were also mourning the loss of their beloved sister Kylie.

However, the idea to meet the challenge of becoming strong swimmers came about following the securing of funding from Sport England. Working in partnership with Suffolk Sport and Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council secured 'Sport England legacy' funding which provides an opportunity for young people to take part in training and support to help get physically active. With the assistance of Kathryn Charlesworth in Waveney's Active Communities Team they embarked on a 12 week training programme with the goal of taking part in the Great East Swim. The programme included:

• 12 x 45mins training sessions at Waterlane Leisure Centre.

- Free swimming pass during the three month training period from April – June at Waterlane.
- Two open water training sessions at Fritton Lake.

They met all their training 'goals' however the event was cancelled at the eleventh hour much to their disappointment. And yet they didn't let this put them off and they still took part in a gruelling open water swim at Fritton Lake - to raise money in memory of their sister, Kylie, who passed away tragically last year. It was always the family's personal wish to be able to pay for Kylie's burial and to provide the headstone. As well as the swim, Chloe and Liam have been raising money through car boot sales and the Council has supported them by asking for kind donations from their local commu-

From the very start of the programme Chloe and Liam have been incredibly focused and have shown dedication and determination, going from almost non-swimmers to covering half a mile and a mile respectively.

Waveney District Council's Active Communities Team are very proud of their achievements. Rachel Tucker from the Active Communities Team said: "To achieve the huge personal goals that they have is a real credit to Liam and Chloe, they should be very proud of themselves".



Golden years

Waveney District Council is celebrating the role that older people play in our communit by funding two 'Golden Age Fair' events.

Staged by the 'Rural Coffee Caravan Project' the first event was held in Wangford with many residents from around the area taking advantage of the wealth of information for those of a 'Golden Age' to stay healthy, fit and independent. The second event held in Kessingland was also extremely popular.

Ann Osborn, Project Manager of the Rural Coffee Caravan Information Project, said, "These events are an excellent opportunity for older residents to find out more about the

things that matter particularly to them, with people on hand from around 25 organisations to talk through a whole range of issues. "Experience shows us that many people do not have any idea of the wealth of help that exists in Suffolk and information is empowering." As part of the 'Sloppy Slippers' project, to assist the prevention of falls in the home due to poorly fitting footwear, over 60 pairs of slippers were given away at the events. Along with this, the fire service were on hand testing electric blankets. In Kessingland 70 blankets were tested of which 17 were found to be

Your rights in your local community

For too long communities have suggested they have not had a big enough say in what happens in their local area. But this has changed with the introduction of the Localism Act. A new set of 'Community Rights' put power back in the hands of people through a package of reforms and new freedoms. These 'Community Rights' includes the

'Community Right to Bid' which aims to give community groups, such as parish councils, neighbourhood forums and charities, time to make realistic bids to buy land or buildings that are of importance to the local community when they come up for sale. Cllr Frank Mortimer, Waveney District Councillor and Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities

said: "This power could be used, for example, to nominate land and buildings such as village shops, public houses, former schools, swimming pools and public open space." There is no guarantee the nominee will be successful but this process does give them the opportunity to be considered, providing they meet the criteria set out by central government. Nominations

can be made to the Council and must follow a series of specific guidelines and procedures to meet Government requirements. Further details of the Localism Act Community Right to Bid and the process for nominating a community asset can be found by visiting www.waveney.gov.uk and searching for localism, or at www.mycommunityrights.org.uk.

Planning for success

Official figures released recently show that Waveney District Council's Planning Service is in the top 10% in the country for dealing with major applications.

Measured over a two year period to June 2013, the latest official statistics confirm the Waveney planning service as the 26th fastest out of the 335 District Councils in England which had dealt with Major Planning Applications.

Successive governments have

recognised the delivery of an efficient planning service as the catalyst for regeneration and economic growth.

With that in mind it is no surprise that the present government have put in place a monitoring regime to encourage Local Planning Authorities to deliver timely decisions on major planning applications without sacrificing quality.

Failure to do this can result in developers being given the opportunity to submit Major Planning Applications directly to the Planning Inspectorate. The Government has collated performance information for all Planning Authorities across England based on the speed of dealing with Major Planning Applications.

Portfolio Holder Cllr David Ritchie commented: "This confirms that the tremendous efforts put in by both councillors and staff over recent years have been effective in delivering a streamlined planning service. The importance of delivering an efficient planning service can not be over emphasised when developers are considering where to invest in projects delivering much needed regeneration and growth. The Planning Service being in the top 10% in England helps support the Waveney District as an attractive place for businesses to invest and my congratulations go to all involved in this success".



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The importance of delivering an efficient planning service can not be over emphasised.

- Cllr David Ritchie

Developing issues

The Council has formally adopted two new planning documents providing important guidance for homeowners and businesses.

The two guides address development in areas at risk from coastal erosion and applications relating to renewable energy and sustainable construction. Both are areas of great importance to Waveney and these documents are specially designed to reflect current issues.

Development in areas at risk of coastal erosion

The 'Development and Coastal Change SPD' (Supplementary Planning Document) sets out the type of development that will be appropriate in areas identified as being at risk of coastal erosion. It also sets out how the Council will consider planning applications. A number of properties are at risk in the next 100 years, and this document will help communities prosper and adapt to change.

The objectives of the SPD are to:

- Set out the type of development that will be appropriate and in what circumstances
- · Provide guidance for temporary uses of land and buildings
- · Set out the approach to relocation of properties
- · Prevent development that would increase risk of coastal erosion
- Avoid inappropriate development in the areas at risk of coastal erosion.

Guidance on renewable energy and sustainable construction

This guidance contains ways to improve the efficiency of new and existing buildings and explains the options available to generate renewable energy, mechanisms to reduce the potential for flooding, dealing with waste recycling, and how to conserve and enhance biodiversity. It includes:

- · Information about when a planning application is required
- Renewable energy technologies and considerations that should be taken into account as part of a planning application
- · Ways to reduce the impact of new development on the environment and improve our use of natural resources
- · Options available to building owners and occupiers to improve the operating efficiency of their building(s).
- · Compliance standards that new buildings are expected to achieve.

Building better facilities

A new scheme introduced by **Waveney District Council this** summer will see millions of pounds raised from developers to help improve local facilities.

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) was brought in on 1st August and is the new way in which the Council collects financial contributions from developers to help pay for new and improved infrastructure such as schools, play areas, and transport schemes. The CIL is expected to raise at least

£2.4 million over the next 10 years and will help deliver infrastructure to support the development planned in the Councils Local Development Framework (Local Plan). Parish and Town Councils will also

They will receive at least 15% of CIL raised from development in their Parishes. Parish and Town Councils can spend this money on anything that addresses the demands that development places on their areas.

The following types of development are liable to pay CIL in Waveney:

- · New dwellings
- · New dwellings used as holiday lets
- · Supermarkets or retail warehouses over 100sqm in size
- Extensions of greater than 100sqm to the above types of development If you are proposing to build any of the above types of development please visit the Council's CIL website to find out more:

www.waveney.gov.uk/CIL or contact the Council's planning team.

www.waveney.gov.uk/ldf

benefit from the CIL.

Area Action Plan beginning to deliver

As part of the Lowestoft Lake **Lothing & Outer Harbour Area** Action Plan (AAP), Waveney is involved in a project to revitalise Lowestoft rail station.

Bringing the derelict and un-used Lowestoft Station Building back to use, the plan is for a Station which will once again be alive with shops and cafés to create a vibrant and welcoming retail and commercial hub linking the Town Centre, the Station and the Waterfront area. As part of the scheme led by the Council, Lowestoft Vision, Greater Anglia and Network Rail, the Station Building will also be fully restored on the outside returning it to the beautiful attraction it once was. This follows hot on the heels of the new Bus/Rail Interchange at the Station which is one the AAP's first completed projects.

Taxi drivers now have a better area to collect and drop off passengers and a much improved environment for people using our station. The whole of the car park was resurfaced and disabled parking has been improved, the pavements leading to and from the station have been upgraded and trees have been planted to brighten up the area. A new crossing was put in for the buses which can also be used

by cyclists to make the journey to and from the station safer and easier. In January 2014 the bus shelters will be enhanced with screens counting down the time for the next bus and there will be secured cycle parking facilities and a cycle hire scheme to allow more cycling to and from the Station. Adopted by Waveney last year, the AAP presents a long term vision to revitalise Lowestoft by focusing on employment-led regeneration in a planned and managed way.

The aims of this plan are to create:

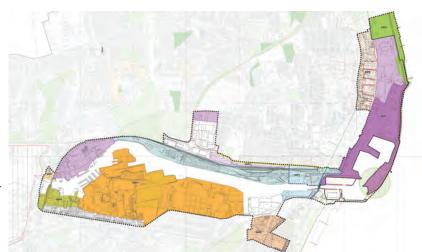
- * A flourishing local economy to provide new opportunities and at least 1,000 new jobs by 2021.
- * 1,500 new homes by 2025 in locations such as Kirkley Waterfront (pictured) and Brooke Peninsula.
- * New well designed public and green open spaces
- * Improved public transport systems and infrastructure improvements to reduce congestion and enhance sustainable travel.
- * An enhanced retail offer in Lowestoft with

new commercial floor space

* Improved connections and access between the Waterfront area's, the beach, Station Square and Town Centre to make it a better environment for local people and visitors to enjoy.

This will build on the existing diverse, vibrant and creative local culture in Lowestoft and preserve our key heritage assets such as the Railway Station building. With this in mind, some of you will have taken part in the recent consultation on the proposed new development on the former Brooke Marine/Peninsula site and part of the Jeld Wen land off Victoria Road. This major new development for

Lowestoft aims to bring a mixture of 800 plus new homes and employment, commercial floor-space, community facilities, new open space and enhanced wildlife area and primary school, a new marina with retail, restaurant, bars and cafés serving the existing and new population with new access to the waterfront. This is one of the longer term projects happening in Lowestoft that will make the town a better place to live, work and visit and will be delivered through a number of partnerships with a variety of organisations, businesses, communities and individuals. Without these partners the vision for Lowestoft could not be achieved.



A burst of energy to boost Lowestoft

As James Gray - inward investment director for the East of England Energy Zone - explains, Lowestoft is at the centre of an energy industry boom, bringing money and jobs to the region.

Lowestoft is at the heart of a unique mix of offshore gas, windpower and nuclear energy production, unrivalled in the UK. Lowestoft has over 50 years experience in leading the development of the UK's energy sector and this is attracting the interest of top tier energy companies. Waveney District Council has teamed up with other councils, the two Chambers of Commerce and energy trade association EEEGR creating a unique consortium to welcome potential investors.

The Government's desire for more gas-powered electricity generation is driving a new surge in gas exploration and production in the Southern North Sea. The massive 7.2GW East Anglia Array wind farm is just 14km from Lowestoft with our harbours, infrastructure and a skills base built on that half century of experience. And there's the little matter of a new nuclear reactor planned a few miles away at Sizewell. The Greater Gabbard Wind Farm off Suffolk illustrated just how much

major developers look for local support. The venture called on expertise from the local supply chain in creating its 140-turbine 500MW site. Around £1.5million was invested in developing an operations and maintenance base at the old fish market in Lowestoft. SSE then became the first UK company to carry out helicopter maintenance, using Bond Air Services from a Lowestoft base. The adjoining Galloper site now has consent for a 504MW wind farm.

It's not just windpower attracting in-

vestment. Lowestoft's AKD Engineering agreed a £5m deal with Shell for a rejuvenation project at Bacton gas terminal. This will lead to around 40 new jobs. Nearby Sembmarine SLP Limited has secured a contract worth £7m to fabricate the bridge and flare Structures for Nexen Petroleum UK's Golden Eagle Project in the North Sea. Just two recent developments from an expanding dossier of success stories. Email www.theenergyzone.co.uk for more information.

Big strides for better market towns





66 We are continually seeking new and innovative ways to help boost the market towns and this could be the launchpad for a range of initiatives

- Cllr Bruce Provan

Waveney District Council has welcomed the publication of an independent report which seeks to tackle the issues facing 'high street' businesses in the district's market towns.

Commissioned by the Waveney Business Forum (WBF), the Waveney Town Centre Study considers the reasons for high street decline and includes wide-ranging research which it is hoped will create ideas to increase spending and footfall in the district's high streets and town centres. Kevin Vail, Chair of Waveney Business Forum said: "Our first major project has proved that there are many positives and negatives relating to our unique market towns. Action is now required to enhance the positives further and solutions are needed for the few negatives. This is something that the Forum aims to provide by way of workshops that all small businesses will be able to benefit from and this research is clearly a step in the right direction." The main research method saw shoppers surveyed, however, businesses were also heavily involved in the project with their views captured through meetings as well as in town-specific business stakeholder surveys.

The survey presents a number of perceived strengths and weaknesses. Strengths include the town environments and shopping experi-

ence, 'resilience' despite the economic downturn, independent shops and the attraction of quality and fresh items, locally-produced. Among the weaknesses, the lack of shopping variety is cited and the perception that car parking is too expensive. However, report author, Dr Rebecca Ellis, principle research consultant for Digital Era Research, acknowledges the continued funding pressures for Waveney District Council which prevent radical price reductions across the board. She also acknowledged that - subsequent to the report's surveys taking place - the council has sought to introduce a number of innovative schemes to boost trade. According to the report, ongoing

threats to the town centres include internet shopping, supermarket dominance and the continuing economic downturn, however Dr Ellis sees opportunities for revitalisation by reinforcing the 'local' shopping experience and utilising the internet and social media to encourage footfall. Dr Ellis has presented the study findings to the WBF board and a number of workshops have taken place across the district to develop initiatives and identifying potential funding. Town groups are working together to begin the process of implementing the reports recommendations. For more info contact the Waveney Business Forum:

info@waveneybusinessforum.org.uk

Energy boost for businesses

A grant scheme led by Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils is helping a number of businesses to reduce their energy costs. With the help of East Coast Carbon Efficiency (ECCE) Project grants, 11 small and medium sized local businesses are in the process of investing a total of more than £126,000 in 19 measures which will help them save money and use natural resources more efficiently.

Since the project began in 2012, 82 businesses have benefited from the FREE Energy and Green Procurement Audits. Potential savings identified from the audits conducted to date total £640,652 and 2854.4T CO2(e). The ECCE Project is a FREE scheme offering eligible small and medium sized businesses in Suffolk Coastal and rural Waveney the opportunity to save money by reducing resource consumption, improving the sustainability of their supply chain, accessing grant funding and gaining recognition for their carbon reduction efforts through a county- wide accreditation scheme. The project is a partnership between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council's and Groundwork Suffolk and is partfinanced by the European Regional Development Fund, Local Area Business Growth Initiative and the Low Carbon Coastal Market Towns Initiative. If you would like further information about ECCE or if you may be interested in joining the project please email ecce@groundwork.org.uk or phone 01502 523393.



Your health and wellbeing is our priority

The District Council is working closely in partnership with Suffolk County Council and local health services to improve the health and wellbeing of our local communities.

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

- Environmental Health food safety inspections; health & safety and environmental protection
- Licensing assessing alcohol and entertainment licence applications
- Planning ensuring appropriate built and natural environment
- Housing Strategic planning for appropriate housing provision; Supply of Council Housing and tenants advice service; Benefits; Grants for disabled facilities; warm homes scheme and a range of other housing support services
- Leisure provision of wide range of amenities that contribute to public health & wellbeing

- Regeneration focusing on economic development of the area to attract growth and jobs
- Democratic representation local District Councillors represent Ward interests and represent their constituents in a wide range of issues. This could include considering health related matters at Council Scrutiny meetings. Cllr Mary Rudd is the representative for Community Health on the council.

As part of the recent Governement review of Health and Social Care, each county in England has been required to set up a "Health & Wellbeing Board" to encourage integrated working between Health, Care, Police, local District Councils and other agencies in order to improve health and wellbeing of the community.

The Suffolk Health and Wellbeing Board has developed the following four priority areas where all agencies involved will work together in order to make a difference.

Our health & wellbeing priorities Every child in Suffolk has the best start in life Suffolk residents have access to a healthy environment and take responsibility for their own health and wellbeing Older people in Suffolk have a good quality of life People in Suffolk have the opportunity to improve their mental health and wellbeing

Working together for a better Suffolk!

A brand new organisation created to improve partnerships between local organisations in East Suffolk is staging its first ever annual forum this month.

The East Suffolk Partnership (ESP) Forum is at Trinity Park Conference Centre on 22 November and will give representatives the opportunity to meet members of the ESP Board and hear about progress in developing a collaborative approach to working across east Suffolk.

Delegates will be drawn from voluntary organisations, the private sector, community groups, local authorities and other local public sector organisations, town and parish councils, young people, faith groups, healthcare professionals, older people's representatives and other local organisations as well as central government departments

and bodies.

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

The ESP was created after a review of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Strategic Partnerships recognised the benefit of improving the way organisations worked together in the area.

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

Delegates at the Forum will have the opportunity to help shape the ESP's priorities for future work streams and seminars will be arranged to offer specialist knowledge from expert practitioners. Local organisations will be encouraged to book a stand at the 'market place' and bring along a display to promote their organisation.

Invitations to the event have been sent out and attendance at the event is by booking only.

To find out more go to the website www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk or contact the Partnership Manager, Luke Bennett on 01394 444252 or info@eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk.





Act now to keep personal details private!

Changes to electoral law mean that your name and contact details in the electoral register may be made available for sale -EVEN if you have 'opted out' previously. Find out how to keep your details private PERMANENTLY!

When you register to vote, your details are added to the full copy of the Register of Electors which is used in polling stations for elections, and for credit reference purposes. There is another version of the Register of Electors called the 'edited register' which is available for general sale and can be bought by any person, company or organisation for commercial uses such as direct marketing. Every person who registers to vote can choose not to have their details in the edited version of the register, and this is known as 'opting out'. You can opt-out on your registration form by ensuring there is a tick in the 'edited register' box in line with your name on the form. You can also now make this choice permanent by completing a 'Section 11 Notice' under the Data Protection Act 1998.

Many residents in Waveney have already completed a Section 11 Notice. A letter similar to this article was sent out by us with Council Tax bills in March/April, and an article was also included in the 'In Touch' magazine published in March.

If you have already submitted a Section 11 form then your choice to permanently opt-out of the edited register will be indicated on your Annual Voter Registration form this year with a pre-printed tick in the edited register box. If your opt-out tick is pre-printed then you do not need to submit another copy of the Section 11

Notice. If you haven't completed a Section 11 Notice then the edited register box on your registration form will be blank. Marking it with a tick will keep your details excluded from the public register for the following Register year. In addition to marking your form, if you want to make your decision to opt-out a permanent one then you will also need to submit a Section 11

A Section 11 Notice has been printed at the bottom of this page for you to complete and return to us if you would like to permanently optout of the edited register. The notice informs your Electoral Registration Officer (ERO) that you do not want your personal information to be used for direct marketing. If you choose to complete the notice you should detach it from this page and return it to the Electoral Registration Officer. You can return it by post to the following address 'Electoral Services Office, Waveney District Council, Town Hall, High Street, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1HS', or deliver it in person to the Town Hall, The Marina Customer Services Centre or a Waveney Local Office. You can even scan the completed form and email it to elections@waveney.gov.uk.

If you have already returned your Annual Voter Registration form and you do not know if you have opted-out then you can send back the Section 11 Notice below and we will ensure the opt-out is added even if you have not marked it on your form. If there is more than one person registered at your address for voting then they must each be listed individually below and sign against their own name for the notice to be



How to keep your details private

Polling District Review 2013

A consultation about electoral arrangements in Waveney is currently underway. Voters have until November 29 2013 to comment on their existing polling arrangements. To take part or for further

information go online to: www.waveney.gov.uk/pdr

Notice under Section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998

To: The Electoral Registration Officer, Waveney District Council

Give your full address:

The persons named below do hereby request that their details are not included in the next version of the Edited Register or in any subsequent future versions until further notice.

| 1. Name: | |
|------------|--|
| Signature: | |
| 2. Name: | |
| Signature: | |
| 3. Name: | |
| Signature: | |

| 4. Name: |
|------------|
| Signature: |
| 5. Name: |
| Signature: |
| 6. Name: |

Please return this form to:

Elections Office Waveney District Council Town Hall High Street Lowestoft NR32 1HS

By post, or in person to the **Town Hall, The Marina Centre or** one of our Local Offices

Are YOU registered to vote?

By law, every household MUST complete and return an annual voter registration form. Have you done yours yet?

Waveney's Electoral Services Team is now updating the Register of Electors ready for publication at the beginning of next year.

Each year the team send out an 'Annual Voter Registration form' to every property in Waveney to give residents the chance to update their details on the Electoral Roll. This year there is a change to what you can do to keep your details out of the public version of the register of electors (called the 'edited register'). Please read our article about keeping your details private when registering to vote for further information.

Assistant Chief Executive of the council, Arthur Charvonia, is also the Electoral Registration Officer and he said: "It is a legal requirement for every household to make a return in response to the Annual Voter Registration form to ensure they are registered at the correct address for voting. As well as being used for voting, the Electoral Roll is also used to check residence at an address for finance / credit purposes, so it is very important to ensure your details are correct and up-to-date."

Your form will have been delivered to your property around 25th October 2013. The forms are A4 in size, pink and white in colour, and are pre-printed with the current name(s) that the Register of Electors contains for your address. If you have already sent back your form or made a return using one of our automated services then we thank-you for your prompt response. If you have not yet made a return, please do so as soon as possible. If we haven't received a return from your address by 13th November 2013, a reminder form will be printed for your address at extra cost to the Council.

How to make a return for your household:

If the pre-printed information on the form is still correct then please use one of the automated response methods (telephone, internet or text response) to quickly and easily confirm this for your household. Information about the automated services is given on the top righthand corner of the form. If the only change to the pre-printed information on your form is that you wish to opt-out of the edited register, you can still use the automated telephone and internet services to make a return and you will be given the option to change your opt-out preference.

Using the automated services saves money so please use them if you have no changes to your details. Last year, 21,587 forms with no changes were sent back by post, costing the tax payer an extra £5,612. Please help us to reduce the costs for everyone by using an automated response method if you have no changes to your details and encourage family and friends

If the pre-printed information on the form is now incorrect (wrong names printed / change of occupants) then please make any amendments on the form in pen. This can include crossing off the names of people who are no longer resident at the address, adding new residents on to the form, and amending incorrectly spelt names or names that have changed by marriage. If you make any changes to the form it must be signed and returned to the Electoral Services Office by post in the pre-paid envelope provided. Further information about completing your form is provided on the reverse of your registration form and in the leaflet sent with the form. For any additional queries please contact the Electoral Services Team on 01502 523238 or by email elections@waveney.gov.uk.



66 It is a legal requirement for every household to make a return in response to the **Annual Voter Registration** form to ensure they are registered at the correct address for voting.

- Arthur Charvonia

Waveney Christmas Opening

Lowestoft Marina Centre

Mo 23rd Dec Normal hours Tu 24th Dec Open to public 9-3pm We 25th & Th 26th Dec Closed Fr 27th Dec Open to public 9-4pm Mo 30th Dec Open to public 9-4pm Tu 31st Dec Open to public 9-3pm We 1st Jan Closed

Lowestoft Town Hall

Th 2nd Jan Normal hours

Mo 23rd Dec Normal hours Tu 24th Dec Not open to public We 25th& Th 26th Dec Closed Fr 27th Dec Not open to public Mo 30th Dec Not open to public Tu 31st Dec Not open to public We 1st Jan Closed Th 2nd Jan Normal hours

Beccles Local Of

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We 1st Jan Closed

Th 2nd Jan Normal hours

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Fr 27th Dec closed

Mo 30th Dec closed

Tu 31st Dec Open to public 9-3pm

We 1st Jan Closed

Th 2nd Jan Normal hours

Sworth Local Office

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We 25th & Th 26th Dec Closed

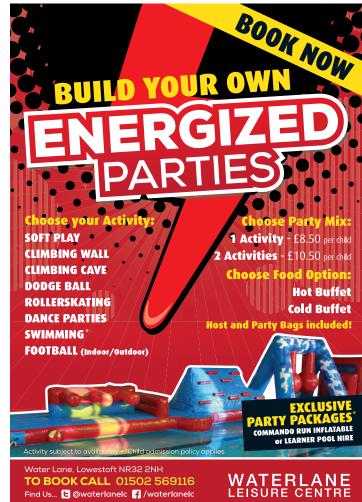
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Th 2nd Jan Normal hours







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