

intouch!

WITH YOU AND WAVENEY MARCH 2013



THIS WAY!

Hatesworth leisure vision is now becoming a reality

WAVENEY MEANS BUSINESS

Council tax frozen for as third year in a row
- now the focus is on economic growth

A SON OF LOWESTOFT

Celebrating the life and music of the composer
Benjamin Britten - born in Lowestoft 100-years ago

Getting in touch

We accept payments by debit/credit card via our automated telephone line: 01502 511 805 and on our website: www.waveney.gov.uk/payments

You can also email the Council: customerservices@waveney.gov.uk

For general telephone enquiries, call 01502 562 111
Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8.30am to 5.00pm
Thursday: 8.30am to 6.00pm
Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm

The Marina Customer Service Centre in Lowestoft is open to the public at the following times:
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday: 9.00am to 4.30pm
Thursday: 9.30am to 6.00pm

Services provided include:
Council Tax & Recovery
Housing Benefits
Customer Services (all general enquiries)
Housing Options/Homelessness
Home Choice
Land Charges
Planning & Building Control
Private Sector Housing

We also have local offices in Beccles, Bungay & Halesworth and they are open:
Monday to Thursday: 9.00am to 1pm & 2pm to 4.30pm
Friday 9.00am to 1pm & 2pm to 4.00pm
More information is available on our website: www.waveney.gov.uk.

Permit prices slashed!

In a move to encourage people to park regularly in Waveney's towns and make use of the shops and facilities throughout the district, everyone can now enjoy the best of Waveney with car park permit prices reduced by up to 40%.

Additionally, a brand new weekend permit has been introduced, costing just £50 for unlimited Saturday and Sunday parking. Waveney's Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships, Cllr Stephen Ardley, believes this decision should provide a welcome boost to businesses.

He said: "We have given this very careful consideration and believe that this is exactly the right time to introduce a new pricing structure which rewards those who park frequently and encourages others to take up permits for the first time.

"Good, hard working businesses and retail stores need people in our towns and this move shows that when it comes to encouraging visitors, boosting our local economy and promoting growth, Waveney means business."

An annual permit has been slashed from £675 to £350, while the quarterly option goes down from £180 to £100. You can now get a monthly permit for just £40 instead of £65 and for a week you now pay just £12.50 instead of £22. Meanwhile, the brand new 'weekender' permit



“ Good, hard working businesses and retail stores need people in our towns ”
- Cllr Stephen Ardley

has been introduced to encourage those who regularly shop and visit on Saturdays and Sundays.

Permits can be purchased for ALL Waveney District Council car parks. To secure a parking permit, simply pop in to the Marina Customer Service Centre in Lowestoft or any of the local district offices in Beccles, Bungay, Southwold or Halesworth.

New man in Beccles



Graham Catchpole is the new Ward Councillor for Beccles South, following a by-election in November.

Mr. Catchpole, representing the Conservatives, secured 520 votes with Green candidate, Nicky Elliott second and Labour candidate, Alan Green in third.

Douglas Farmer the Liberal Democrat candidate came fourth.

The seat was previously held by Alan Thwaites of the Labour Party and the new makeup of the council is as follows:
Conservative - 24, Labour - 22, Green - 1, Independent - 1

Don't suffer in silence!

The Environmental Protection Team expects to deal with around 700 complaints of noise nuisance each year and most during the summer months. Please don't suffer in silence!

During summer, officers will be available at peak times outside normal office hours to deal with complaints of noise in Waveney. This service is available between 7pm and 1am on Friday and Saturday nights from May to September. You can contact this service on (01502) 515435 and you will normally get a call-back within 10 minutes from an Environmental Health officer, who will discuss the details with you and arrange to visit if required. Too much noise can reduce a person's quality of life and, in some cases completely destroy it. Everybody has a different tolerance level to noise and we believe that consideration for the effect of noise on others is extremely important.

Schemes to reduce your energy bills

Residents across Waveney could now save over a hundred pounds a year on their energy bills by linking up with the council to join the UK's largest collective energy switching scheme.

The simple scheme, which Waveney was one of the first councils to sign up to, encourages householders to join up with around 1.5 million others to negotiate cheaper energy bills. Registration is easy and there is no obligation to actually sign up to any deal.

The scheme works by means of a reverse auction where energy suppliers are invited to bid the lowest price to supply the

energy to all those signed up for the scheme. Residents will then be sent a no-obligation offer to switch provider and accept their new energy rates.

So far, over 300 households across Waveney have signed up to the scheme which on average will see thousands of homes in 12 council areas save an average of £122 a year! Each auction has a set start and finish date so don't worry if you missed one... another will be along shortly! Over 20,000 people from across the country registered their interest in the first scheme and to join them simply go online to register at this address:



To join go to readytoswitch.ichoosr.com or for more information, call freephone 0800 088 5007

Up to 1,000 people across Suffolk have benefitted from a free home energy survey during the past year. You can too!

Following the success of the 2011 - 2012 Warmer Homes Healthy People initiative a successful funding bid from every Suffolk council means the scheme will continue in to 2013.

The Suffolk Warm Homes Healthy People scheme can help you make heating and energy improvements to your home ahead of next winter. If you meet the eligibility criteria, a free home energy survey will be carried out by an independent surveyor and there are also a number of 'Warm Homes Healthy People' Roadshows, details of which can be found at ww.greensuffolk.org.

To qualify for the free survey you must own or privately rent your home and:

- have someone living in the property over 60 or under 5 years old.
- have someone living in the property who is in receipt of a disability or means tested benefit.
- if the property is within Council Tax band A-C.

The survey will assess whether you

qualify for free insulation, draught proofing or other energy efficiency measures.

The independent surveyor will tell you what energy improvements you could benefit from and what offers are available to you. During the survey you will be advised on any quick and easy measures you can take to help reduce your fuel bills. If you are struggling to pay for home heating or having problems with your existing heating system then you may qualify for a single winter fuel payment to assist. The scheme could also provide you with free use of a Temperature Sensor and Telecare Alarm Unit that raises an alarm if the temperature in your home gets too low.

To book a survey, all you have to do is call 08456 037 686 (Local rate lines open between Monday - Friday 9 - 5pm) or attend one of our Roadshows as mentioned above. Survey appointments are available evenings and weekends, as well as during the day. So make this winter more comfortable by acting now. The scheme is funded by the Department of Health and managed by Waveney.

Suffolk County Council

Need **help** this **winter?**
or know someone else that might?

Suffolk's **Warm Homes Healthy People** Scheme could help:

- Fuel costs
- Installation of Temperature Sensor and Telecare Alarm Unit
- Emergency boiler repairs
- Cheaper heating oil prices
- Home based energy advice and surveys
- Help with the cost of home insulation

08456 037 686
www.suffolk.gov.uk/warmhomes

Waveney means business in tough times

Waveney District Council is freezing the portion of Council Tax it receives for the third consecutive year but warns of tougher times around the corner.

Despite continued financial pressures on the authority, with further reductions to the annual grant funding received from central government, Waveney presented a balanced budget to Full Council in February but warned of more difficult times ahead as further funding reductions begin to bite. Changes are also being made to how councils are funded which will further impact on available resources.

From 2013/14 the previous funding stream (Formula Grant) is to be replaced by the new 'Business Rate Retention Scheme' - a scheme designed to encourage councils to focus their efforts on creating economic growth and be rewarded for it. However, the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Autumn statement on December 5 2012 highlighted a funding cut of 1.8 per cent in 2013-14 which will then be followed by a larger hit of 5.8 per cent the following year - a cut of up to £1.1 million. Additionally, the austerity period in the public sector was forecast to continue until at least 2017/18. Because of this, Waveney faces a

budget gap of £1.8 million in 2014-15, rising to £4.5 million in 16-17. Cllr Colin Law, Leader of the Council said: "Our number one priority is the delivery of services that our communities need and want and in the current climate this has become increasingly difficult. However I am delighted that we will not be adding to our residents' burden this year by increasing Council Tax.

"Unfortunately, this may not be sustainable in the long term given the very great reductions in funding we receive and the changes to the way we are financed. Instead of a straightforward funding pot from Government, Business Rate Retention provides us with both opportunity and risk. However given the current, difficult state of the economy, we have very little room for error.

"Our sound planning means we have a balanced budget for the next 12 months and I am delighted at the effort that has gone in to achieving this. However, the government's announcement shows that there is more pain to come and we cannot rest on our laurels despite our efforts this year.

"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.

"In this environment it is essential for local government to take the initiative and be bold. The task for us now therefore is to seek ways to encourage economic growth and to be at the forefront of a bright, sustainable future for the district."

“ 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. ”

- Cllr Colin Law

Historic agreement for greener future

Despite the tough economic climate green business is growing and individuals, communities and organisations throughout Suffolk are acting to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and protect and improve their local environment.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are no different and in the last week of January adopted a Joint Environmental Policy to support our business plan. This builds on earlier environmental policies, highlights

some of the Council's achievements so far and maps out our vision and objectives for the next ten years. Achievements include

- Improved insulation, lighting and heating controls.

- Solar PV installed on 10 sheltered housing schemes, Bungay Pool and Ufford Depot. 16 Air Source Heat Pump (ASHP) systems, and 80 ASHP and solar thermal combination systems also installed.

- Greener homes DIY Project which provided over £150,000

worth of energy-efficiency and insulation products to householders in 20 targeted Suffolk communities reaching over 1000 homes.

Future actions include: further exploring opportunities to improve the Councils' high energy usage sites for efficiency and renewable generation gains; Promote the reuse of consumables across the Councils, prompt reduce and reuse when asked to procure; and promote community-led planning and local environmental action.

Cllr Stephen Ardley, Waveney's

Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships and the Green Environment, said: "Waveney and Suffolk Coastal's Business Plans sets out our commitment to protecting, enhancing and making sustainable use of our environment. The purpose of this new document is to explain how we will deliver a coordinated approach across the whole of East Suffolk to the environment and climate change."

The policy and action plan can be found on www.waveney.gov.uk.

Building in savings

Waveney District Council, in partnership with Suffolk County Council, is building new office accommodation in Lowestoft. Why is it needed? How can it be afforded? Waveney Leader, Councillor Colin Law, explains why the project must take place and how it will ultimately SAVE taxpayers money.

It comes as no surprise that the Lowestoft Accommodation Project has attracted public interest because any project in which public money is spent merits the very closest scrutiny. People will ask how we can afford such a project in such difficult times and it is a very reasonable question to ask. However I hope I can explain the logic behind our plans.

This project is indeed the only logical choice for us because of the prohibitive costs we face running, maintaining and repairing old buildings which are now completely unsuited to modern office work.

Sadly, it is not as simple as a few repairs here and paint jobs there. Maintenance costs over the next decade would present a drain on our resources and on taxpayers money which simply cannot be justified.

Of course, staying here would have been our first choice! But it is not a viable option and the Business case we have produced - and which is available for everyone to read on our website - explains in very great detail HOW the initial spend on the project will then be met by the savings we make reducing our energy and maintenance costs.

It is a simple formula - in the long run we will save MORE money than the initial project cost and were it not MORE cost effective to take this approach - we would not be doing it.

We are public servants, making important decisions about public money. We stand or fall because of these decisions and ultimately, our fate will always be decided at the ballot box.

But it is because we are facing

such pressure on our budgets that such a project must take place to protect the important services we deliver and to ensure that as much of our resources as possible can be focused on our communities.

Of course, it will be a sad day when we leave the Town Hall. However, any suggestion that we will be abandoning it and, by association, the businesses of the High Street, is unfair. As is any suggestion that we have not thought through what we will leave behind.

The simple fact is that no decision has yet been made about the Town Hall and that decision will ONLY be made following discussion and engagement with our communities. The good news is that development is already underway on part of the site. Development that will bring families in to the area - all using facilities and spending money in the North end of town.

Once again, I would like to reassure everyone that our communities will be engaged with about the future of the building and that whatever happens, it will have a future which protects the fabric of this wonderful, historic site.

It is also worth remembering that the Riverside Road development is only part of this important project. Suffolk County Council staff will now be moving in to the Marina Customer Service Centre - a fantastically convenient one-stop shop for council services right in the middle of the shopping area of Lowestoft.



This is a modern way to deliver public services and we feel that our customers and communities will really appreciate this convenience. Also, it is important to understand that we are NOT going to be moving in to state of the art gold-plated facilities!

We will be moving in to a building that is fit for purpose. Modern office accommodation and nothing more. Accommodation which local hard working staff deserve but more importantly, accommodation they really need.

What we have currently simply isn't acceptable, it isn't good enough and it will cost too much to repair and maintain.

As I said at the start, I can understand why people might raise an eyebrow or two when they see the headlines. "Council to spend millions on new HQ" etc. In isolation, given the money we are having to save and the difficult economic climate it might seem illogical to some.

So I do hope that I have been able to add some important context to what we are planning. This is not our money it is YOURS and we have a duty to spend it wisely and to spend it in a way that best supports our communities.

By undertaking a project that will ultimately SAVE money we are seeking to do just that, creating a brighter future not just for Waveney District Council but for the people we serve.



Planning for the future

Want to keep tabs on a current planning application but don't have the time to keep checking the Council's website? Well now you can!

The planning public access system has recently been upgraded to allow you to register as a user and choose to track individual planning applications by receiving automated email updates when the status of the application changes. Registered users can also now save their searches and rerun them without the need to enter all of the search parameters again. Alternatively, as with the tracked applications, the option to receive automated update emails can be chosen. For example, doing a search on a Parish or Ward, entering a start date but not an end date, will result in an automated email every time a new planning application is submitted in the

chosen Parish or Ward.

The map search facility has also been enhanced so that once the user zooms in to an area, a list of the nearest planning applications is displayed.

The system continues to allow users to view the deposited plans and associated information as well as to submit comments online although the latter now requires the user to register.

Cabinet Member for Planning & Coastal Management David Ritchie said "We all lead busy lives and it is all too easy to lose touch with planning applications which may impact on us as individuals, this is a major step forward in simplifying the flow of information". He went on to say that "this forms part of the shared service agenda and part of a major project to introduce shared software systems to support the delivery of



more efficient working across both the Waveney and Suffolk Coastal Districts. To find out more or to register head to our website at www.waveney.gov.uk/planning

Exciting plans in summary

With the key Waveney Local Development Framework (LDF) documents now in place, the Council has just published a summary leaflet to provide an overview, for local residents, businesses and visitors, of the proposals for future development in the District to 2025.

Copies are available at www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF, at District Council offices, libraries, tourist information centres and many other public places across Waveney.

Thank you to everyone who made comments on the draft Kirkley Waterfront and Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood Draft Development Brief. The Council will take these views into account in finalising the Brief in May.

The brief focuses on creating a large 60 hectare mixed-use development on underutilised and previously developed land between the southern

shore of Lake Lothing and Victoria Road / Waveney Drive. Proposals include 1,380 new homes, 12 hectares of employment land, a new primary school, improved public access to the waterfront and a pedestrian / cycle bridge across Lake Lothing.

This land was allocated for development in the Lowestoft Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour Area Action Plan last year, and the brief seeks to provide more detailed guidance on how the site should be developed, providing a framework for making decisions on future planning applications.

There are two LDF consultations on other Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD) starting in May. These relate to Renewable Energy and Sustainable Construction, and Development and Coastal Change. For more information on the Local Development Framework, visit www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF.

Developing funds to boost local communities

To help support new development planned in the Waveney Local Development Framework, the Council is proposing to introduce a new 'levy' to raise important funds.

Money raised from the 'Community Infrastructure Levy' would be used to fund new infrastructure such as transport schemes, schools or open spaces.

The levy would be payable by developers undertaking new building projects in an area, such as new housing. It would apply in most cases to development over 100sqm,

meaning that small extensions to property and most householder extensions will be exempt from paying the levy. Levy rates will be set out in a Charging Schedule which has had two rounds of public consultation, and is currently being examined by an independent Examiner from the Government's Planning Inspectorate.

Provided the Examiner is happy with the Charging Schedule, it is anticipated that the Council will begin charging the levy in September 2013. For more information, visit www.waveney.gov.uk/CIL.

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!

Basically, there are TWO versions of the electoral register. You have to be included in the full register for voting and credit referencing but you can choose not to have your name included in the **edited register** which is the version available for general sale. The information in the edited register can be bought by any person, company or organisation for commercial purposes such as direct marketing. However, a new interpretation of electoral law means, without taking additional steps, that each person **has to make this choice each year** and so, at the moment, any decision YOU made to opt-out of the 2013 edited register (as part of the annual canvass last year) will only apply for 12 months. However, the good news is that YOU CAN make this choice permanent and we will now explain how. Remember - if you DON'T make your choice permanent and you forget to opt-out on any future forms your name WILL be included in the edited register and could be sold on to third parties.

So what do you need to do?

Under section 11 of the Data Protection Act 1998, you can let your Electoral Registration Officer know that you do not want your personal information to be used for direct marketing either permanently or until you tell him/her otherwise.

Therefore, to help you do this, simply fill out the form below and return it to us.

Additionally, Waveney residents will receive a letter with their annual Council Tax Bill which will be delivered during March. This will also include a form you can return.

If there is more than one person registered at your address for voting then they must each be listed individually and sign below. Post it or deliver or in person to the Town Hall, The Marina Centre or a Local Office.

We also accept photocopies, or you can email a scan to elections@waveney.gov.uk.

You may also want to copy the form for friends, neighbours or relatives who might also like to opt-out permanently.

And if you live outside the Waveney area, you can still use the form but please change the Electoral Services Office address to the Council where you live before you cut it out and send it back to your own Local Authority for processing.



On 2nd May this year, voters in Suffolk will go to the polls to elect their representatives for Suffolk County Council.

County Council elections happen every four years, with Suffolk divided into electoral areas called 'divisions'. Electors are asked to vote for a representative (or in some cases two) in one of eight divisions, which are:

- | | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Beccles – (2) | Kessingland & Southwold – (1) |
| Bungay – (1) | Lowestoft South – (2) |
| Gunton – (2) | Oulton – (2) |
| Halesworth – (1) | Pakefield – (2) |

You can find out which division you live in by contacting the Elections Office at Waveney on 01502 523238 or by email at elections@waveney.gov.uk.

The key timetable dates for voters to be aware of is as follows:

- | | |
|---|---|
| Midday - Fri, 5th April
<i>Deadline for nominations to stand as a candidate.</i> | 5pm - Wed, 24th April
<i>Deadline to appoint a proxy to cast a vote on your behalf.</i> |
| 5pm - Wed, 17th April
<i>Deadline to register to vote, and to register to vote by post for this election.</i> | 7am to 10m - Thu 2nd May
<i>Polling Day.</i> |

Further information about the elections can be obtained from the Elections Office at Waveney District Council who run the elections on behalf of the County Council. Information can also be found online at www.waveney.gov.uk and www.suffolk.gov.uk.

Election time

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: | 4. Name: |
| Signature: | Signature: |
| 2. Name: | 5. Name: |
| Signature: | Signature: |
| 3. Name: | 6. Name: |
| Signature: | Signature: |

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**

Working for a better east Suffolk



A new partnership working to make east Suffolk even better has agreed its key priorities and cannot wait to begin promoting and improving the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the area.

The East Suffolk Partnership brings together leading figures from a range of backgrounds such as the police, healthcare, local business and the voluntary sector to work in partnership on five core targets or 'themes': Building on economic prosperity, growth and infrastructure development; Ensuring people have the skills to meet employment opportunities; Encouraging a grow-

ing, ageing population to be healthy and live well; Building strong communities and reducing inequalities in health, housing, and crime; and Supporting sustainable activities linked to the environment.

The work of the ESP will be community focussed but it will also be increasingly community-led. It is the local areas and their needs that have helped shape its priorities but it will also be working to empower grass-roots organisations to take on and lead the projects that will make the big difference locally.

The ESP replaces and builds on the good work of the Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Local Strate-

gic Partnerships and has a 15-strong Board including the Leaders of Waveney, Suffolk Coastal and Suffolk County Councils.

"This is an important step forward for our communities. With the involvement of vital partners from across the public, private, voluntary and community sectors, the ESP will be a key player in achieving the improved quality of life our districts want," said Cllr Colin Law, Leader of Waveney District Council and Chairman of the ESP Board.

2013 will see the Board focus on a number of key priorities including improving the skills and employability of people in the area, while working more closely with businesses to find ways to improve the local economy and forge stronger links with local suppliers.

Other tasks for this year include taking early action to ensure all young people are either in work, education or training, and building up the links between education providers and employers so young people can gain the skills needed to fill local jobs.

There will also be emphasis placed on the importance of older people and what they want and need to make their lives fuller and more ac-

tive. Plus work to understand why there are inequalities across the two districts and why some areas are more likely to have higher rates of unemployment, poor health, or lack of affordable housing. The ESP will also look to promote the wide range of activities on offer for both residents and visitors of the area. For more information visit www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk.

“
An important
step forward that
will bring real
long-term bene-
fits to our
communities
”

- Cllr Colin Law



Carlton Colville's bright future

Cllr Jill Tyler was elected as Chairman of Carlton Colville Town Council in May 2012 and, like her colleagues on the Town Council, is passionate about the place and securing the services and infrastructure it needs to be a vibrant community. She explains what has happened so far and what lies ahead.

"The first step was last year's Visioning Event which asked residents for their views on a range of topics and - with the help of Suffolk Acre, Waveney District and Suffolk County Councils' officers

and Councillors - enabled us to capture information in seven key areas: Highways, Built Environment, Community Space, Infrastructure, School Site, Transport and Youth. Suffolk Acre subsequently wrote a report from which an action plan has been developed.

"The next step for us is something called a 'Community Led Plan'. This is not a quick project and will take time to deliver. The first thing is to identify a group of residents who want to be involved and who can commit the time, effort and

commitment. If they can the benefits to the community will be immeasurable and once completed the Town Council will then take ownership of the document and start to deliver the objectives.

"The last piece in this jigsaw would be a Neighbourhood Plan. The Government's Localism Act encourages councils to build more housing to accommodate our ever growing population. Unfortunately, Carlton Colville has, to date, been more developed than planned and this has left a lack of infrastructure and services. A Neighbour-

hood Plan would give the community a say in how our locality could be developed in the future. Another great commitment but with obvious benefits!

"Living in Carlton Colville is a pleasure but we have many challenges ahead. However, thanks to the dedicated work of previous Chairmen and committee members, and with the help and commitment of the community, we can really start to make progress."

Halesworth vision taking shape

Plans to bring Halesworth Middle School - which closed in July 2012 - back into community use as a sporting campus are making real progress.

Halesworth Campus Ltd (HCL) is a registered charity, established to deliver this ambitious project and brings together a range of different skills as well as a shared energy and enthusiasm to tackle a diverse range of issues arising from the scheme, both now and in the future.

One current and vital initiative is a bid for a Sport England 'Protection of Playing Fields' grant; a pot of money designed to help regenerate existing playing fields not being used to their full potential. In HCL's case this will pay for high quality, professional drainage works to allow the pitches to be used year round; even if we have another season as wet as the current one.

Evidence is being gathered from a number of sources to predict the use of the pitches in order to support the bid. From close collaboration with Halesworth Playing Fields Association the signs are that, with football thriving and growing in Halesworth, there will be significant use of the Campus pitches. This would include the

growth of junior rugby and, in time, the return of cricket on a regular basis.

That said, a wider and detailed sporting needs analysis will have to be carried out with information from the 19,000 or so people in the wider Halesworth area. This will enable HCL to ascertain how to further develop the sporting facilities at the Campus site, and support funding bids for the necessary development works. HCL are being ably assisted with the needs analysis by Waveney District Council, specifically their Sports' Development Team. The analysis will build upon the preliminary views sought and gratefully received ever since the closure of the school was announced - the original catalyst for the Campus project.

Suffolk County Council (SCC) has also been meeting with HCL on a regular basis to ensure that the evolution of the site from School to Community Campus is as smooth as possible. This includes costing proposals to take over the former School sports and assembly halls, with their complementary changing and kitchen facilities, to make these areas available for community use later in the year.

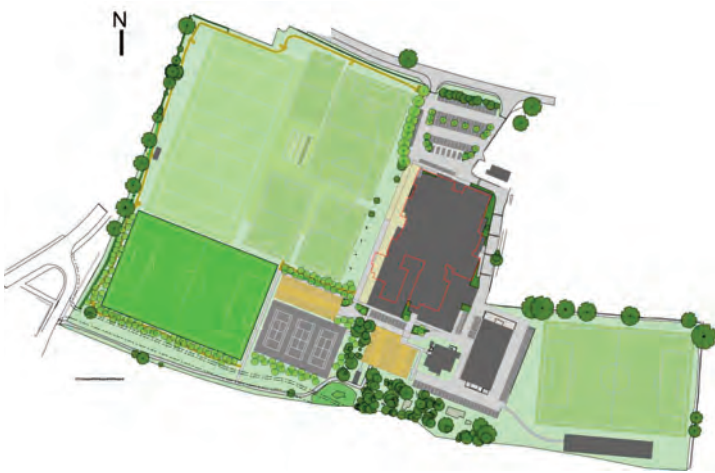
HCL was closely involved as a supporter of Halesworth Health's recent public meeting about the future of health provision in the locality. From a very early stage in the Campus' life, it was acknowledged that close collaboration with Halesworth Health was vital to the community, due to the proximity of the Campus site to the Health village.

Cllr Tony Goldson (pictured below with Louise Studd - Halesworth Campus Ltd Director and David Gallagher - Waveney's Head of Commercial Partnerships) is one of the driving forces behind the project and he said: "The prospect of creating high-class leisure, sporting and health facilities in one location is a mouth-watering prospect. The fact that this is possible on the site of what was a very popular School, with the North Suffolk Skills Centre as immediate neighbours, adds to the attraction. There is a huge amount of momentum around Halesworth for this to succeed.

"Both Waveney District Council and Suffolk Coastal District Council are analysing the benefits of this project and thanks must also go to Cllr Stephen Burroughes at Suffolk Coastal for his continued support."

“There is a huge amount of momentum around Halesworth for this to succeed”

- Cllr Tony Goldson



Town teams take up high street challenge!

High streets are recognised as important hubs of social interaction and cohesion, as well as providers of local jobs. They're a visible indicator of how well, or how badly, a local economy is doing. But our high streets and town centres are facing serious challenges from out-of-town shopping centres and the growth of online and mobile retail.

Taking forward the first recommendation from Mary Portas's high street review, the government ran a number of high street Town Team 'Portas Pilots' in England. The competition encouraged local partnerships and consortiums to come up with innovative ideas about how to transform

their local high street into a social place, bustling with people, services and jobs.

Over 400 towns applied to be a Portas Pilot and 27 teams were selected of which Lowestoft was one and featured in the last issue of the In Touch. The remaining 326 Towns became Town Team Partners which will help to maintain the momentum and energy that the competition generated.

Halesworth and Southwold became Portas Pilot Town Team Members and were awarded £10,000 to take forward elements of their original Portas Pilot Bid.

Southwold



The Southwold Town Team, led by the Southwold Chamber of Trade, is taking forward a number of initiatives including the "My Southwold Loyalty Scheme".

The campaign aims to attract people back into independent stores with the help of a loyalty card – providing money-saving offers in more than 30 shops and businesses. The initiative has been launched by the Southwold Chamber of Trade to help secure the long-term future of independent traders.

The campaign provides greater incentives to shoppers by "giving something back" if they used an independent shop or business. Guy Mitchell, head of the Southwold Chamber of Trade and owner of a shop on Southwold High Street, talks about the importance of this initiative: "We know our customers love having lots of independent shops rather than relying solely on national re-

tail brands".

The £10,000 grant will be used to roll out more loyalty cards across the area and ensure that the My Southwold Loyalty scheme is able to promote money-saving offers, changeable every month, in shops and businesses in Southwold.

The loyalty cards have been delivered to homes in Southwold and Reydon. To get yours visit www.mysouthwold.co.uk. Furthermore, one of Southwold Town Team's Portas aims is "Promote a neighbourhood plan that includes the High Street to ensure local people can manage the make up of shops on the High Street". One of the first steps Southwold is taking in the path to a Neighbourhood plan is to draw up a Town Plan. The Town Plan seeks the views of Residents, visitors and also businesses.

To make your views known visit: <http://southwoldtownplan.org.uk>

Halesworth



The Halesworth Town Team, in conjunction with The Halesworth & Blyth Valley Partnership, continue to promote the core features of their original Portas campaign, while using the £10,000 to sow the seeds for an exciting future.

Working alongside local schools and businesses, they have produced a distinctive logo for Halesworth shops, products and crafts, a design which will be displayed on Anglian buses.

On the neglected site close to the Town Centre, they are bringing the Old Print Works building back into community use. A welcoming entrance to the Town, with a first hour's free parking (which we hope to extend to two), is an antidote to identikit shopping malls. The objective throughout is to encourage footfall into the attractive Thoroughfare and Market Place independent shops.

Work, bringing National Cycle Network Route 1 into Halesworth's

centre, has already begun. Close enough to Harwich to attract Europe's cyclists, and with a good rail network, the Town can establish itself as a Regional Centre for Cycling: they can offer repairs, storage, advice, refreshment, accommodation and tourist information.

Laura Churchill, Portas Town Team Leader said: "For residents and visitors alike, our unique market town has much to offer, not only superb local fare, but every opportunity to reward creativity and promote individuality".

Important work to avoid further slips!

Work is well underway on a cliff-top drainage scheme in Corton, to help prevent further slippages caused by surface water saturation.

Extending for almost a kilometre from the Wy-Wurry caravan park in the North to Azure Seas in the South, the work, which is being funded by the Waveney Pathfinder scheme, should be completed by April. This follows a slip in January which led to the seawall promenade at a point midway between Tibbehams Score and Cliff House being blocked. The work is being carried out by Lowestoft company PJ Spillings and completion is expected by April this year. Meanwhile, Pathfinder has agreed

to support the Corton Playing Field Committee in its plans for improvements to the Pavilion with a donation to support fundraising and planning and a commitment to support with capital costs. And at Dip Farm and Tramps Alley work resumes in March to complete the installation of CCTV cameras leading to improved safety and security in the area.

A salt box has been installed at Tramps Alley to improve grip on the steep gradient and improvements are planned for the concrete slip at the southern end of the prom from Tramps Alley to avoid vessels grounding when being towed on to the beach for launch.

In addition, Pathfinder is working

with Suffolk Wildlife Trust regarding the long term management and development of Gunton Warren, and talking to local interested parties to gather opinion and ideas.



The coastal community adaptation programme

Seawall project delivering a better beach for Lowestoft

Waveney District Council is spending £400,000 to build new foundations for the seawall at Lowestoft's South Beach.

The work is taking place along a 170metre stretch between the harbour and Claremont Pier where falling beach levels mean the exposed base of the wall could be eroded by the sea.

The project consists of excavating the beach and driving steel sheet piling in front of the wall and then pouring a concrete slab between the wall and the piling before reinstating the sand back up to current beach levels.

Beach levels shift along the sea front in cycles and while the northern part of the beach is getting lower, there is more sand south of

Claremont Pier than ever before. Councillor David Ritchie said: "If we didn't do the work and beach levels keep dropping, with tidal surges in the winter, the wall could be undermined."

It's a natural process which is monitored the whole time and appropriate works are done and it's prudent to be doing the work now, because if we don't there might be trouble later on."

During the works the beach area and some of the prom has been closed off in the vicinity of the works. Cllr Ritchie added: "We would like to thank the public for their patience and co-operation during the works. However it is for the long term benefit of the beach and its users."



Celebrating a son of Lowestoft

In 2013 music-lovers around the world are celebrating the life and music of the composer Benjamin Britten - born in Lowestoft 100 years ago.

During the Britten 100 celebrations there will be more than 1,600 performances of this great composer's work, on every continent except Antarctica (where there is, at least, an inlet named after him). But it all started in Lowestoft.

Edward Benjamin Britten was born at the family home, 21 Kirkley Cliff Road, now the hotel Britten House. Older residents will remember it as the dental surgery established by the composer's father, Robert Britten. The family lived above the ground-floor surgery.

On 24 April 1916, when Britten was two, the family had a narrow escape during the bombardment by German ships that killed three people, injured twelve people and dam-

aged 200 houses. One shell exploded on the open ground opposite the house, an experience the adult Britten said he could remember.

At seven Britten began piano lessons with Miss Edith Astle, one of the teachers at his first school, just along the road from home and from the age of eight Britten went to school at South Lodge Preparatory School, also on Kirkley Cliff Road. The main school building no longer stands but used to be on the site of the present Thatch Restaurant. Although the school did not teach music (his private lessons continued) Britten was very happy there and particularly enjoyed the cricket and other sports.

In 1928 Britten left South Lodge and was sent away to Gresham's boarding school in Norfolk. He was very homesick and did not get on with the music staff (always the Suf-



folk boy!). However, his composing style matured considerably during the late 1920s and early 30s and two choral songs from this period, A Hymn to the Virgin and I saw three ships were the first Britten pieces to be performed in public, at a concert by the Lowestoft Musical Society on 5 January 1931. The perfect venue for this son of Lowestoft's work.

Working hard to welcome visitors

Featuring a brand new website visitor guide and twitter feed, the Waveney Tourism Forum is pulling out all the stops to attract visitors to the district.

A new improved website is jam-packed with up to the minute details on places to stay, days outs, events and much more. Meanwhile, a glossy 28 page holiday guide further sells the beauty of this part of the country.

Cllr Bruce Provan, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Tourism and Economic Development said: "Waveney has a £253 million tourism economy and we are committed to ensuring that this continues to develop.

"There are many wonderful reasons to visit Waveney and we look forward to continued growth in the tourism economy."

To support the campaign Waveney District Council has invested in an advertising campaign to generate

leads to the website and holiday guide. The guide is also available from both Lowestoft and Southwold Tourist Information Centres as well as other TICs around the country. Chairman of the Waveney Tourism Forum & owner of Heathland Beach Holiday (who this year celebrate 40 years in business on The Sunrise Coast) Bernard Reader said: "The Waveney Tourism Forum is pleased to work in partnership with the Council and grateful for their continued investment in the area. With the new campaign and opportunities such as the Britten 100 celebrations we look forward to a successful 2013".

Those wanting to keep up to date with information from the area can also sign up to receive a series of email newsletters throughout the year, which will include information on events, things to do and special offers.



For more information go to
www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk.
 Tweet an image or say what you like
 best about the Sunrise Coast to
 @TheSunriseCoast and add the tag
 #EnjoySunriseCoastSuffolk!

Businesses boosted by energy advice!



Businesses signing up to a new energy efficiency advice scheme in East Suffolk have been shown how they can make over £330,000 worth of savings.

Now Waveney District Council is urging even more businesses to sign up and take advantage of the scheme.

The East Coast Carbon Efficiency (ECCE) project offers free energy audits to identify where savings and efficiencies can be achieved and 24 businesses, who have already received an energy and green procurement audit, could not only save thousands of pounds but

also reduce their CO2 emissions by a total of 1,500 tonnes per year. The scheme also helps businesses to develop green procurement strategies so that companies buy environmentally-friendly local services and products, and provides grants to help companies make the necessary changes.

Grants up to a maximum of £2,000 are available to part-fund recommended measures that would reduce their carbon emissions overall, whether through energy efficiency or new greener procurement strategies.

Businesses to benefit so far include

Southwold Post Office, Toys & Stationery (SPOTS) who were audited in November. They endured old, inefficient heating which was uncomfortable for staff and customers because only four of the 18 heaters in the shop were working. An Air Source Heat Pump was recommended, to provide an annual saving of over £800 per year on their energy costs. They applied for a grant and it was approved before the end of the month with installation soon afterwards.

The other advice they received should help them make annual savings of over £1,000 per year. Cllr Bruce Provan, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Economic Development said: "We hope that the successes we have seen so far will encourage other businesses to take part. It is a genuine helping hand in very difficult times."

Small or medium sized enterprises interested in taking part should contact Peter Eyles, Project Coordinator on 01502 523394 or e-mail ecce@groundwork.org.uk with their contact details.

For further info visit: www.waveney.gov.uk/ecce.

Whether you are starting your own business, experiencing challenges or looking to expand, Waveney's Economic Services Team can provide advice and guidance as well as signpost you to many of our partners. If you would like to discuss any issues relating to business support, skills and training, land and premises, business networks or would like a visit from the team please contact us on 01502 523219 or email economicregen@waveney.gov.uk

Business website launched

A brand new website has been launched by Waveney District Council to provide a range of news and information for and about local businesses.

Until now, 'Reflect on Regen', the Council's Business newsletter - which has been running since summer 2006 - has been a valuable tool for informing the business community about the support and help available to them both from the Council and our partners.

However, with such a varied and ever changing business landscape constantly evolving, the decision was taken to stop producing a printed newsletter but add the information to a brand new website. This will enable us to provide the latest news at the touch of a button and provide the perfect tool to highlight and promote good news stories from the area to show that, despite what is happening within the economy, there are still positive things happening locally. Go to:

www.waveneymeansbusiness.co.uk

Free support and training

A scheme which provides businesses with free support and training has been launched by a partnership including Waveney District Council.

Working with local enterprise agency NWES (Norfolk and Waveney Enterprise Services), Waveney Business Forum and the Federation of Small Businesses, the Waveney Business Support Voucher Scheme provides businesses with a voucher enabling them to access quality business advice, skills training and networking events. The advice is delivered by an accredited

business adviser from NWES and takes the form of two sessions; an initial general/diagnostic session and then a follow up session for more specific tailored support. The general advice could range from core business areas such as legal issues, operations, budgeting, bookkeeping, marketing and using social media tools. The tailored support could then be in the form of a specific skills training course or networking event.

To date six events have taken place around the district with representatives from Lovewell Blake, Barclays Bank and HSBC along-

side HMRC, NWES and Waveney District Council discussing the voucher project and also any other business issues.

The project has now been running for three months and to date there have been around 70 enquiries received leading to advice sessions being booked. For more information on the project or to book an appointment please email info@nwes.org.uk, call 0845 60 99 99 1 (please quote voucher scheme when contacting NWES) or go to www.waveney-businessforum.org.uk/voucher-scheme.

Offering young people a step up

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Councils have renewed their commitment to offering apprenticeships for those looking to take their first steps into work.

Over the last couple of years, many apprentices have worked for the two Councils in a range of teams from human resources to IT, and we have now advertised for 8 more in teams such as Environmental Services and Communications.

Successful applicants are supported to gain a Level 2 Business Administration or Customer Service apprenticeship. Although permanent jobs are not guaranteed, the training and experience improves prospects and apprentices can apply for any internal vacancies. Several have gone on to gain either permanent or longer term temporary positions within both councils.

For example, Nick Wheeler, joined the Council back in March 2012 as a Customer Service Apprentice and

has now secured permanent employment within the Customer Services Team at the Marina Centre. He said: "My experience as an apprentice has helped me build vital skills to gain employment and evolve as a person. The whole of Waveney District Council made me feel welcome and a valued member of staff." Meanwhile Callum and Lottie (pictured) are working with the Housing Team.

The two Councils have signed an apprenticeship agreement with UNISON. Cllr Colin Law said: "It is really encouraging to see the quality of the youngsters who come forward and fill the places on offer. They prove time and again, you can present them with real challenges but they rise to the occasion." The document confirms that all sides will work in partnership to promote learning in the workplace and review all vacancies that occur with a view to increasing the number of apprentices.



“ It is really encouraging to see the quality of the youngsters who come forward ”

- Cllr Colin Law

Welcoming the decision makers of the future!

The Waveney Youth Council (WYC) made great strides in 2012 and this year looks even brighter.

In October 2012, WYC encouraged schools to take part in Local Democracy week - a huge success with many schools and colleges taking part in events such as a "councillor question time" and assemblies about what democracy really means.

Another success story was a campaign for better and more affordable transport for young people. We were very active in this area and it was great to hear about the approval of the 'Endeavour Card', which will hopefully benefit many young people in the district. The new card means young people can top up online and travel at a reduced rate.

Elsewhere, the WYC has been leading on a Youth Engagement

Strategy which was agreed in December and will now come to Full Council at Waveney very soon.

This will outline what can be done to encourage, promote and support young people in the area and forge links between young people and District Councillors. Finally, look out for the next edition of WYC's magazine "Youth Xpress" which will be out soon! The first ever edition came out in the summer and went down really well. Sam Kenward, Chair of the Youth Council said: "We really want young people to have a voice on the local issues they feel strongly about because the youth in Waveney really deserve it!"

For more information on the Waveney Youth Council, or to get in touch, please email youthcouncil@waveney.gov.uk or follow the Waveney Youth Council on Facebook or Twitter.

National Youth Takeover Day (NYTO Day), was bigger and better than ever in 2012!

The day is designed to give young people the chance to work with adults for the day and get involved in decision making processes.

NYTO Day 2012 saw students from Denes High, Sir John Leman High, Lowestoft College, The Attic and East Point Academy attend a forum to discuss problems surrounding anti-social behaviour in our local community, what causes it, the effect it has on the victims and what could be done to address the problem. More than 30 young people worked alongside Waveney District Council officers and members, Suffolk Police and Magistrates officials before the big event of the day at Lowestoft Magistrates Court! Alongside

other organisations with a part to play in tackling anti-social behaviour, such as the Youth Offending Service and Waveney's Housing Team, two mock trials about anti-social behaviour took place. Students played some key roles, including Magistrates, Lawyers, The Defendant, Youth Offending Officer, a Witness, a Press Photographer and security. Cllr Frank Mortimer, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Communities said: "We are all extremely pleased with the event and would like to thank all that took part and helped organise the day, including Lowestoft Magistrates Court for hosting the afternoon mock trials. All students engaged well with the activities and I imagine they learned a huge amount about the impact and effects of anti-social behaviour."

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