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WITH YOU AND WAVENEY NOVEMBER 2012



UNFORGETTABLE

Playing our part in a magical summer of sport and entertainment

BIG PLANS

Council's 10 year plan to improve the quality of life for everyone in Waveney

THE PLACE TO BE

How European funding is helping to boost skills and job prospects in Lowestoft



Waveney District Council
Serving the Community



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.htm

You can also contact the Council by email: 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.

We are on Twitter!

Follow news and updates from the Council at twitter.com/waveneydc for instant up to the minute information on a wide range of services and topics. Over 1,000 individuals, companies and other groups are already following the Council's feed which has so far included 'live tweeting' of events such as the Torch Relay and the Council elections last May.

A Summer

With an estimated 50,000 people lining the route in Waveney and 28,000 in Lowestoft alone, Waveney District Council Leader Colin Law believes that the Olympic Torch Relay through the district was one of the most special events in living memory.

On a glorious, sunny day in Suffolk, the 48th of the torch's journey around the UK, the streets of Lowestoft, Wrentham, Reydon and Southwold were packed out with people waiting for a glimpse of the flame and Cllr Law says he has never seen anything like it.

He said: "It truly was the most incredible event - something we will never forget. I cannot recall a day in my life when so many people have come to the town centre in Lowestoft to share in one special experience – and the pictures from around the district show exactly the same joy wherever the torch went. I could not be more proud of Suffolk, of Waveney and the amazing welcome we gave to the Olympic Torch and the Games." Estimates suggest that, as well as the

28,000 in Lowestoft, there were 6,000 watching the torch in Wrentham, 3,500 in Reydon and 10,000 in Southwold. The torch's journey included a stop off at Lowestoft Ness, Britain's most Easterly point and a lunch at Saint Felix School just outside Southwold. Then, having left Saint Felix, the torch departed Waveney and headed in to Suffolk Coastal on its journey to an evening celebration in Ipswich. As the crowds filtered away, Cllr Law was left to reflect on how the hard work that went in to organising the day really paid off.

He said: "Here at Waveney, our team have been planning this event for months and so much has gone in to ensuring it ran smoothly. The logistics of something like this are almost mind-blowing and we have worked closely with the Olympic Organising Committee, Suffolk County Council, Suffolk Police and other partners to help make it a day to remember. From the volunteer stewards to our Waveney Norse cleansing team – everyone has helped make it a perfect day."



we will never forget!

Organisers of the Tour of Britain cycling race said that the opening Ipswich-to-Norwich stage, which included a route through Waveney, attracted record-breaking crowds.

It is estimated that 175,000 people watched the 124-mile stage on Sunday September 9th which was around 25,000 more than last year. This is the third year that a Norfolk and Suffolk stage has featured in the Tour of Britain but it was the first time that Waveney had welcomed the country's leading cycle race.

The 'Grand depart' began at Ipswich waterfront, with Bradley Wiggins, the four-time Olympic gold medallist and Tour de France winner, and Mark Cavendish, the reigning world road race champion, among the starters.

Waveney District Council contributed £15,000 to the staging of the race which,

according to Bruce Provan, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Economic Development, was money well spent. He said: "Throughout Suffolk the crowds were huge and it was no different in Waveney. We estimate that 11,000 people lined the route here and we reckon that this could be worth up to £200,000 for the local economy. This summer has been like no other and the shared sense of sporting and national pride here and across the country is something that we will all never forget." Peter Hodges from the Tour of Britain said: "It shows that Britain has found cycling and we hope more people will now take up cycling for sport, leisure or health reasons." "What could be more inspiring than seeing Bradley Wiggins and Mark Cavendish racing on roads that you're familiar with?"



Lowestoft-born Olympic bronze medallist Anthony Ogogo enjoyed a hero's welcome at an event arranged by Waveney's events team and Beach Radio.

The boxer, was paraded through Lowestoft in an open top car before speaking to around 1,000 people in London Road North.

Ogogo was bowled over by the welcome and said: "This is a massive gesture from the town; I'm completely overwhelmed by it. I want to thank everybody - their support means everything to me."

He was then presented with a plaque by Mayor of Lowestoft Cllr Nick Webb, in

honour of his achievements. Cllr Webb said: "Anthony is a great example to the people of Lowestoft. He has worked hard to achieve his goals and this town has really shown their appreciation of him". Emma King, from the Lowestoft Town Management Partnership, said: "It's wonderful for Lowestoft. It's a positive, fantastic news story and we're just so very proud of him."

Anthony has also accepted an invitation by Waveney District council to be a Sports Ambassador for the district and the Council looks forward to working with him to help inspire people of all ages and abilities to take up and enjoy sport.

Suffolk Record Office is to build a permanent record celebrating Suffolk's participation in the London 2012 Olympic Games and they are keen to hear from people involved in local projects and events.

"The Record: London 2012 Olympic & Paralympic Games and the Cultural Olympiad" aims to capture the impact of London 2012 on local communities, individuals, families, businesses, schools and groups and preserve it for use by current and future generations.

Suffolk Record Office wants to hear from local people about how they celebrated this summer and information sent to them can include paper or

electronic records, audio recordings or photographs.

Based in Bury St Edmunds, Ipswich and Lowestoft, the Suffolk Record Office holds an amazing range of information about the history of Suffolk and its



people. Email suffolk.remembers@suffolk.gov.uk or contact your local Lowestoft branch by calling 01502 405357.

A real voice for young people

A free magazine covering a range of important issues has been launched by the Waveney Youth Council. After months of planning, 'Youth Xpress', written by young people FOR young people is now out with copies available online and in paper format.

With articles written by the young people who currently sit on the Waveney Youth Council, the magazine promises to be an exciting and engaging read for all young people in Waveney.

Articles in this first edition include a look inside the New Lowestoft Sixth Form College, a feature on the cost of transport, a look at how bullying can affect a young person's life, plus

much more. There is even a chance to win some great prizes.

With this being the first magazine produced, readers are also being asked to provide feedback on the content and make suggestions for what could be included in future publications.

Youth Xpress is now online at www.waveney.gov.uk/youthcouncil and, thanks to locality funding from Suffolk County Councillors Mark Bee and Deanna Law, paper copies are being distributed around high schools, colleges and youth clubs in Waveney.

Sam Kenward, chair of the Waveney Youth Council, said: "I'm delighted that we are launching our first youth magazine. All youth council members participated in the process, from writing articles to securing and receiving the funding and I think it is a great example of what young people can achieve. I hope this is the first of many!" Frank Mortimer, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Customers & Communities said: "Young people are clearly very engaged with serious issues and working closely with them gives us all a really important insight into what matters to them most. This magazine typifies their enthusiasm and their determination to make a difference".



“ I think it is a great example of what young people can achieve. I hope this is the first of many! ”

- Sam Kenward, Chair WYC

World cafe opens its doors

Waveney District Council's Community Development Team recently brought Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Communities together across the District for a special event in Kirkley.

The event was made possible by working in Partnership with the East of England Faiths Agency (EEFA) who suggested using a "World Café" theme to bring our BME communities together and encourage conversation between residents and local organisations in a café

style environment. Cllr Frank Mortimer, Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities said: "Waveney District Council were keen to use this opportunity to see how BME communities really felt about local services and, as a result, a number of common themes and key findings were identified. These form part of a final report which has now been produced by EEFA and which will be utilised by Waveney District Council when delivering services across the district."



A healthy APP-etite!

Eating out? Getting food in? Find out if a restaurant, takeaway or food shop you're going to visit has good food hygiene standards... at the push of a button!

With hygiene ratings for restaurants, takeaways and other food businesses in the district measured against the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme, food premises are awarded a Certificate and Window Sticker to display their Hygiene Rating. Under the national scheme these will range from zero - which means urgent improvement necessary - to the top rating of five, which indicates a 'very good' standard. But what if you want to book a restaurant or visit a particular shop without visiting it first or scrolling through the FHRs website? Simply

download the simple new smart phone app! Just go to the website www.ratings.food.gov.uk or look up 'Food Hygiene Standards' in the android marketplace or apple store, depending on your phone. It couldn't be easier! Peace of mind at your fingertips.

If you would like more information about the FHRs, residents and businesses can visit waveney.gov.uk/foodhygieneratings. Alternatively, you can email environment@waveney.gov.uk or contact a member of the food safety team on 01502 562 111.

The food hygiene rating or inspection result given to a business reflects the standards of food hygiene found on the date of inspection or visit by the Council's food safety team.



Stray dogs... the message is getting through

Waveney District Council's firmer approach to stray dogs and the problems caused by careless owners is starting to pay off. New figures show that the message is getting through: fail to take proper care of your dog and you will be hit in the pocket!

As well as improving procedures to identify and record details of all strays and their owners which come their way, the Council has also increased the fees for reclaiming a dog, to reflect more accurately the costs of actually dealing with a stray. The net effect is that the numbers of strays processed by the council has fallen by almost half in the last three years from 202 in 2009-10 to 116 in 2011-12.

Cllr Mary Rudd, Cabinet member for Community Health said: "The Council does not expect the wider public to take responsibility in their council tax for careless or irresponsible dog owners who allow their dogs to stray. Part of the responsibility for

a dog includes paying for all aspects of its welfare, including the costs of somebody else looking after it if it escapes."

If your dog strays, the most reliable way of ensuring its speedy return is a collar and tag bearing up-to-date contact details for the owner, allowing the finder to contact you direct. Indeed, this is now a legal requirement.

A collar and engraved tag can be obtained for a modest sum and you should ask your vet or the local pet shop for advice.

"In almost all cases where a stray dog is wearing an up-to-date tag, the finder will contact the owner direct, and we don't get involved, saving a lot of time, worry and money all round," Cllr Rudd added.

Want to know more about how Waveney Council deals with stray dogs? Go to www.waveney.gov.uk and type 'stray dogs' in the search box at the top of the website's homepage.



“When a stray dog is wearing an up-to-date tag, the finder can contact the owner direct and we don't get involved, saving a lot of time, worry and money all round.”

-Cllr Mary Rudd

Team effort earns funding for Lowestoft



Lowestoft is celebrating after becoming one of a handful of towns to be chosen for funding and support from the Government as part of the Mary Portas Pilot Scheme.

Lowestoft is one of 15 town centres across the country given a unique opportunity to revitalise their high streets after being selected in the latest round of 'Portas Pilots'. Each town will receive a slice of £1.2 million and a tailored package of support from both the

Government and retail guru Mary Portas. The successful bid was led by the Lowestoft Town Centre Management Partnership in partnership with Waveney District Council and the Waveney Chamber of Commerce. Lowestoft was delighted to learn it had been chosen from 371 applications. The Portas Review led by Mary Portas and commissioned by the Prime Minister, made a number of recommendations aimed at identifying what government, local

authorities, businesses and communities could do together to promote the development of new models of sustainable and diverse high streets.

Emma King, Town Centre Manager said: "Lowestoft Town Management Partnership (LTMP) could not be more proud or delighted that Lowestoft has been chosen as a Portas Pilot.

"This is an enormous achievement for Lowestoft and is real recognition for a town which has faced many difficulties. Thanks to the passion of the people working here, we are riding out the storms and can now look towards a positive future. Our thanks go out to the retailers for their patience and trust in LTMP and to Waveney District Council for all their hard work in helping create an unbeatable submission."

Colin Law, Leader of Waveney District Council said: "This is absolutely wonderful news for the town and to be chosen from over 300 different bids is a very great achievement. We have worked closely in partnership with LTMP and because of our shared aspirations and determination we have reached our goal. "Every town faces its challenges but we have risen above the others by showing a real passion allied to great ideas and sound business principles. This is just the beginning and we cannot wait to make Lowestoft an even greater place to be."

“
Our thanks to Waveney District Council for helping create an unbeatable submission.
”

- Emma King
Lowestoft
Town Centre
Management
Partnership

Sharing Data to Stamp out Fraud

Waveney is working with the Audit Commission on its latest anti-fraud initiative which will see the Council sharing some of its data to be compared with information provided by other public bodies.

This information can then be used to help identify people wrongly

claiming benefits and discounts. Data matching helps identify fraudulent claims and payments, and where an inconsistency is spotted, a further investigation will be started. No assumptions are made as to whether there is fraud, error or other explanation until an investigation is carried out.

For this initiative, the Council will be providing details of its staff, housing tenants, trade creditors, insurance claimants, concessionary travel users, market/street trader licence holders, personal licences for the supply of alcohol holders and private hire and taxi drivers.

Personal data is very important to this Council and it is managed in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. For further information visit www.waveney.gov.uk/site/scripts/terms.php or contact the Council's Data Protection Officer on 01502 523613.

Great response to Kirkley ideas

Waveney District Council has thanked the people of Lowestoft for their contributions to a consultation about future development around the Kirkley Waterfront.

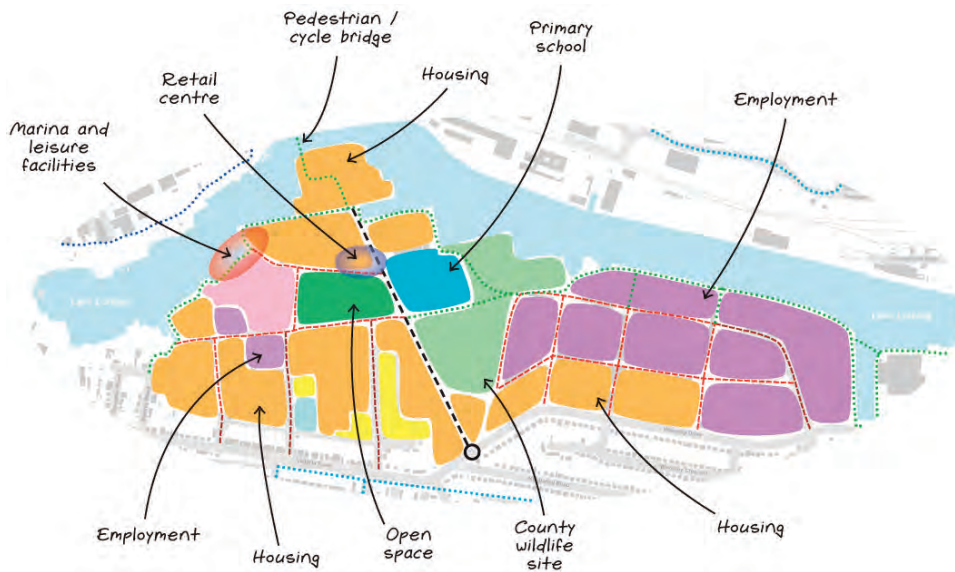
A range of responses were received following an exhibition at Whitton Hall for the "Sustainable Urban Neighbourhood and Kirkley Water Development Brief" in

February and March earlier this year. Cllr David Ritchie, Cabinet Member for Planning said: "The brief provides specific information about the kind of development that could be expected on the Waterfront. Proposals include new housing, land for employment and retail, a primary school, open space and increased public access to the waterfront. However many useful

and interesting views were expressed about how it could be improved to help meet the community's aspirations." Comments made in response to the consultation are available on the Council's website, and will be used to inform the next draft of the development brief. The Council intend to publish the updated development brief for further public comment

later this year, along with feedback on the consultation.

The development will take place over the next 15 years and for all information relating to these plans, the feedback from the consultation and the wider Local Development Framework, go to the web pages: www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF



“ Many useful and interesting views were expressed about how it could be improved to help meet the community's aspirations. ”

- Cllr David Ritchie

Lowestoft's Peto Square set for transformation

As part of the Area Action Plan to regenerate Lowestoft's Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour, an exhibition has presented proposals for the transformation of Peto Square in to a central hub for retail, leisure and commercial activity.

The plans include up to 17,500 square metres of retail, leisure and tourism development along with other leisure facilities in the area between Denmark Road and North Quay.

This important work builds in to an exciting vision for the area which includes: creating a 'vibrant heart' to the town for local people and visitors; an extension of the town

centre to the Waterfront; better connections between the Waterfront, the Town Centre and the Railway Station; good public transport and transport infrastructure to reduce congestion and better connections between the communities North and South of Lake Lothing.

The initial phase of development will be focussed around Commercial Road and there will also be a new bus/rail interchange adjacent to the railway station with facilities for taxi pick up/drop off, secure covered cycle storage, bus waiting and real time information. Meanwhile the South Quay will be developed for commercial and port

related activities.

The first stage of work, due to commence shortly, will see Suffolk County Council embark on a programme of sustainable transport and highway improvement works in Station Square and the public exhibition detailed what would happen and how the area would be affected.

Cabinet Member for Planning, Cllr David Ritchie said: "The plans for this part of Lowestoft are spectacular and I hope that our communities can appreciate that some disruption caused by the Station Square works are part of a far bigger project to radically improve the area for all."



For further information, please visit www.waveney.gov.uk/LDF

Theatre of dreams for Lowestoft



The future for the Council-owned Marina Theatre in Lowestoft has never looked brighter, following an investment by Waveney of £200,000 towards improvements to its main auditorium and technical facilities.

The new look Marina re-opened on schedule on September 14 with a concert by the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, followed by an open day which drew hundreds of people eager to look behind the scenes. The Marina Theatre Trust, which took over the management of the Edwardian Theatre last December, has been running the refurbishment project over the summer and - in addition - there is a brand new ground floor café and box office facility in the recently acquired premises adjacent to the venue. Featuring a stunning mix of blues with decorative features in gold, the restoration of the auditorium has included a full refurbishment of the

seating, incorporating Probox Technology - as used in Lotus cars, re-decoration and new carpeting, technical and ancillary works. In addition work to create a new loading bay to improve access for touring productions and safety work on the venues theatrical flying system has been completed. The installation of a Digital 3D Cinema System is set to follow this Autumn.

Although the last major investment was almost 25 years ago, the Marina has dramatically improved its programme the past ten years with over one million people attending its popular mix of major West End and touring shows, ballet, drama, opera, top comedians, full scale professional pantomime, community events, films and live music.

The Marina Theatre Trust is determined to enhance and build upon the theatre's reputation as one of East Anglia's leading entertainment

venues and in partnership with Waveney, the state of the art improvements are now helping them towards that aim.

Theatre Chief Executive, Martin Halliday is thrilled with the progress: "It has been a busy few months with contractors, staff and volunteers working around the clock to ensure that everything was ready on time. The restoration work to the main auditorium looks absolutely stunning and we cannot wait for our patrons to see what has been achieved."

Cllr Stephen Ardley, Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships said: "Investing in the future of this wonderful Theatre makes outstanding commercial sense. I know that the Trust want to continue attracting the very best talent to Lowestoft and a modern state-of-the-art facility will help do that. Without this investment the Theatre could have been held back in its

ambitions and it has always been the aim of the Trust and Waveney District Council to make this a Theatre that is the envy of the region."

In August the Theatre Trust launched its Next Stage Appeal with the initial aim of linking its new premises containing the café & box Office with the main building. There are various ways in which you can assist with the appeal. The Friends Of The Marina are running a Name A Seat campaign and individual and corporate donations are also welcomed with various sponsorship packages linked to the venue also available.

For more information on the appeal and details of events coming soon, please visit the Marina Theatre website www.marinatheatre.co.uk or email info@marinatheatre.co.uk. To book for any forthcoming concert, film or show please telephone the box office on 01502 533200.

Cheaper car parking boost

In a drive to encourage more people to shop in the towns and boost regeneration projects, Waveney District Council has introduced a one hour free parking scheme in the market towns of Bungay and Halesworth.

The scheme, which will be trialled for a year, will offer users of park-

ing spaces in the town their first hour for free. Information collated from these car parks will be closely analysed to determine the success of the scheme and whether the initiative should be rolled out permanently. Other changes to car park charges will include the introduction of a reduced-price permit, again, to seek an increase in income for

local businesses.

Cllr Stephen Ardley, Portfolio Holder for Operational Partnerships said: "There is always a careful balancing act between keeping costs down for those who use our car parks and the level of revenue required to maintain them to acceptable standards. However, this move shows that

Waveney means business and to encourage growth in the local economy we must do as much as we can to get shoppers in to our towns. We have a forward budget of £440,000 for a rolling programme for car park maintenance over the next four years and this trial scheme will not impact on that figure."

Playing for keeps in Whitton Green

Working together is paying dividends again with a new play area and picnic area opening this summer in south Lowestoft's Whitton Green.

This community-led project was launched with a grand opening which included circus performers, face painters and the cutting of a ribbon.

"There was a collective community appeal for a young children's play area central to the Whitton area at Whitton Green and thanks to a unique partnership effort there will now be somewhere with safe and modern equipment for children to play on," said Cllr Frank Mortimer, Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities.

"£10,000 came from Waveney District Council via the funds provided as part of local planning developments, but the improvements have also been made possible by £10,000 from The Beach radio station's Help An East Coast Child fund, and a £15,000 environmental grant secured by

local residents led by the Whitton Life centre.

"I would like to thank all those who have played their part in making this project a reality. The local community have really pulled together and the new play facilities and picnic area are a fitting testament to their efforts," added Cllr Mortimer.

Waveney's Tenants Forum has a fund of money to support improvements in local areas that are supported by the local community. The Environmental Grants Panel is made up of tenants and they decide on what projects to support and supported this initiative with £15,000.

The plans for the site, drawn up and installed by Waveney Norse, the Council's partners that manage parks in the district, include toddler swings, rope and net climbs, spinners, slides and musical panels, with safety surfacing in a fenced off area with seats for parents to sit and watch their young children play.



“ The local community have really pulled together. ”

- Cllr Frank Mortimer

Nicholas Everitt Park flies the flag

Nicholas Everitt Park in Oulton Broad is celebrating having once again been officially recognised as one of the best green spaces in the country.

The park won the seal of approval from The Green Flag Award Scheme for being well-maintained and managed, and for providing excellent facilities. In 2012, 1242 parks and green spaces will be able to fly either the Green Flag or Community Award and Deputy Leader of Waveney District Council Cllr

Stephen Ardley believes it is a well-earned award. He said: "With its stunning location next to The Broads, Nicholas Everitt Park is a real focal point and thanks to the hard work of Waveney Norse and the Friends of Nicholas Everitt Park - along with the support of numerous local groups - this wonderful park space gets the recognition it deserves."

Waveney Norse's Grounds Service Manager Richard Hackney said: "We are very proud that one

of our parks is recognised nationally thanks to the hard work and dedication of all those involved. We are also extremely fortunate, in the Friends of Nicholas Everitt Park, to have a group of volunteers who are so enthusiastic; consistently proving what can be achieved when we all work and pull together." Following last year's success, Waveney District Council funded a new entrance at The Crescent and this has been very well received. "To show the judges

that Waveney is fully supportive of improvements and prepared to commit resources to it - particularly in the present climate - again shows how strong partnership working breeds success," Richard added. The Green Flag Award Scheme is managed by a consortium, comprising Keep Britain Tidy, BTCV and GreenSpace and recognises well managed, high quality green spaces.

**Do you fancy getting involved and making a real difference to your local green space?
Then please contact the Grounds Team on 01502 527124**

Council is putting customers first



“ We want to help and encourage people to serve themselves, while still ensuring that they can also speak with us face to face, in writing and by phone. ”

- Cllr Frank Mortimer

A new and progressive approach to customers, launched jointly by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, places the delivery of excellent, modernised customer services around the clock at its heart.

The Councils' first ever 'Joint Customer Access Strategy' maps out how both will make services even easier to use by taking advantage of available technology and tailoring them to meet the needs of different people and groups. The strategy, which lays out how the Councils will manage the access to its service from now until 2015, contains a number of action points, each with customer satisfaction and value for money and at its heart.

Cllr Frank Mortimer, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Customers & Communities said: "We want the services we provide to our customers to be consistently excellent and this means involving our communities and customers in addressing the different local needs across our two districts. This is a pledge we made in the Councils' Business Plans and this strategy sets out the principles we will follow to achieve it.

"At the heart of this approach is an increased emphasis on the great benefits of technology. We want to help and encourage the people of Waveney and Suffolk Coastal to serve themselves, while still ensuring that they can also speak with us face to face, in writing and by phone."

Cllr Doreen Savage, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Customers and Communities, said: "We will shape our services so that they can be accessed in ways and at times which suit the customer. This more modern approach, utilising technology wherever possible, is also a way to deliver some real savings for the council tax payer. Of course, this does not mean that we are about to turn our Councils into faceless, 'virtual' organisations, where our services are only available to those with computers. We know how important it is to offer traditional methods of contact to reach all members of our communities. However we have to recognise that there is much that we can provide online, or in other ways, which is better for us, for our communities and which can be accessed 24 hours a day, seven days a week."

New building project to save £3 million

Plans to bring staff from two Suffolk Councils together under one roof will reduce the cost to taxpayers by £3 million over 10 years it has been revealed.

The project will move workers out of unfit and expensive to maintain offices and will secure the future of 700 key jobs in Lowestoft while also releasing publicly owned land for regeneration, providing further opportunities for employment.

A business case for creating shared office accommodation for Suffolk County Council and Waveney District Council staff in Lowestoft has been approved and sets out a vision to build the new shared office complex at Riverside Road, Lowestoft with a joint public access point in the Marina Centre in the town centre. Waveney District Council already owns the land at Riverside Road

and current accommodation buildings will be sold to help pay for the project.

A feasibility report was commissioned to ensure the estimated costs in the Waveney and Suffolk County Council Cabinet reports in April and May were sufficient to deliver the project. That report has concluded that a contribution from each council of £6.825m as a budget

figure, which includes a contingency would be sufficient for the project.

Cllr Colin Law, Leader of Waveney District Council, said: "The purpose of the business case is to ensure that it makes financial sense to proceed with this project. Any new accommodation must ultimately save taxpayers money as well as provide office space fit to deliver 21st century services."



Waveney means business!

Being a 21st Century District Council is about far more than collecting recycling or cutting grass and to meet the demands it faces in a challenging climate, Waveney has developed a 10-year Business Plan.

The Council has identified seven key priority themes which represent their primary purpose as a progressive 21st Century Council and reflect the issues that communities say matter to their quality of life. Each of these priority themes, which can be seen in the diagram above, is therefore crucial to the balanced delivery of the council's overall vision: "Maintaining and sustainably improving the Quality of Life for everybody growing up in, living in, working in and visiting our area."

Cllr Colin Law, in his foreword to the Business Plan said: "In order to achieve this Vision we recognise that a strong local economy is essential for a strong local community. Our overriding priority over the next 10 years will therefore be to promote Economic Growth - building thriving communities through a strong, sustainable, and dynamic local economy offering our communities more stable, high quality and high value jobs, with increased opportunities for all, and providing affordable homes for local people. At the same time, we will continue to drive down the costs of

both local government and the public sector." Cllr Law believes this will be done in four ways. First, by concentrating even more on eliminating bureaucracy that wastes time and money; second by continuing to transform public services and working in partnership to deliver sustainable efficiencies. The third way is to progressively reduce demand for more costly public sector services. And finally the Council will seek to further develop the 'Localism' agenda in a way which recognises and reflects our communities' needs and with their specific demands.

"Our objective is to achieve the right balance for our area, so that we attract the inward investment to take advantage of our economic opportunities, particularly from sustainable energy, to address the social challenges of our diverse area, while at the same time protecting and enhancing all that is best and unique about our natural and built environment, whether it is our coastline, our countryside, or our traditional villages and market towns. Successfully delivering our Vision will significantly improve the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of our area while safeguarding the prospects of current and future generations and improving everyone's Quality of Life," added Cllr Law.

Budget 2013-14: seeking YOUR views

Set against the backdrop of an increasingly challenging economic picture and a reduction in the amount of money made available to councils by central Government, further cuts to the public sector are unavoidable.

In this context, Waveney continues to make robust plans and once again will be asking for the views of residents, businesses and other stakeholders on how they think the money we receive should be spent. This will take the form of a district-wide consultation, which people will be invited to take part in during the months before Christmas. Look out for details very soon!

People in Waveney are currently paying £58.4 million in Council Tax. Many though may be unaware that Waveney District Council only receives a small percentage of the overall amount. Indeed, although we are responsible for collecting it, the council tax is actually divided up as follows:

- **Suffolk County Council**
£45.3 million (77.6% of the total);
- **Suffolk Police Authority**
£6.7 million (11.5% of the total);
- **Waveney District Council**
£5.9 million (10.1% of the total);
- **Town and Parish Councils**
£0.5 million (0.8% of the total).

Cllr Colin Law, Leader of the council said: "With the reduction in Government funding, our overall income is less each year and our 'Business Plan', which sets out a vision for economic growth and maps out the Council's priorities for the next 10 years, is designed to help us address these issues. Equally importantly though, is an understanding of what our communities need and our forthcoming consultation is part of that important process."

Flying the flag for beautiful beaches



Beaches at Lowestoft North and South of Claremont Pier both retained Blue Flags for the 2012 season, recognising their high standards of water quality, facilities and safety.

An internationally recognised symbol of a clean and well-managed beach, the Blue Flag campaign is an environmental initiative to recognise beaches that promote positive coastal environmental care and first class management standards. FEE European Blue Flag Awards recognise beaches, throughout Europe, which fulfil strict criteria relating to both the water quality, management and the surrounding beach area.

For a beach to be considered, it must have attained a guideline standard before being assessed for various other criteria, and it must also demonstrate it provides and manages a range of facilities and contributes to public awareness of environmental issues. Meanwhile, three further beaches - Southwold Pier, Southwold Denes and Kessingland - won Keep Britain Tidy Quality Coast Awards for the 2012 season. The Quality Coast Award was launched in 2007 and recognises the diversity and quality of England's coastline, with all beaches being recognised for providing the very best standards for their visitors.

Cllr Bruce Provan, Cabinet

Member for Leisure & Tourism said: "These latest awards are fantastic news for tourism on the Suffolk Coast and highlight once again why this is a great place to visit and have fun. These awards don't appear out of thin air and it is thanks to the hard work of the partnership between Waveney Norse, Sentinel Leisure Trust and Waveney District Council in keeping our beaches clean and safe."

For more information about the beaches near you please visit www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk; for further details on Blue Flag visit www.blueflag.org; and for the Quality Coast Award visit www.qualitycoast.org.

Can it be recycled?

Not sure which household items you can recycle? Do you know where your nearest recycling centre is? If you have any doubts about either question, a simple tool on the Waveney District Council website will answer your questions.

Household waste is growing by approximately 3% every year and too much of it is disposed of in landfill sites. At present we still landfill quantities of valuable material, (for example green waste, paper and plastic). It is simply not sustainable to continue wasting these resources!

The Government's Waste Strategy 2000 for England and Wales sets targets to increase the recycling of household waste, and as a result we are finding new ways of collecting your rubbish for recycling. And with our new online facility you can look up every type of waste product and find out whether there is a way that it can be recycled, either through our household collection service or at your nearest recycling centre.

So just go to our website and type in www.waveney.gov.uk/recyclenow to find out all you need to know. It couldn't be simpler!



Make a difference to where YOU live

If you would like to make a difference in your local community and identify what matters where YOU live, then Community Led Planning is just for you.

Communities across Waveney are currently looking at how they might like to develop a plan which can help them identify their key local priorities. Community Led Planning can take many forms. Parish and town plans provide a comprehensive vision for how a community wants to develop over 5 – 10 years and identifies the action needed to achieve it. Plans can include

everything that is relevant to the people who live and work in the community, from employment and playgrounds to the design of new buildings and protection of hedges and ponds. They can include any social, environmental or economic issues, based on what a community decides is important to them. In addition to this there are Neighbourhood Plans, which have greater powers and become a formal part of the decision making process for land allocations and planning application decision making. Jo McCallum, Community Development Officer at Waveney

District Council said: "The Localism Act states that 'We want to pass significant new rights direct to communities and individuals, making it easier for them to get things done and achieve their ambitions for the place where they live.' With this in mind, we have seen increased interest from Parish and Town Councils and Community Groups who want to take the opportunity to shape the area in which they live and work". If you would like any information on Community Led Planning please contact jo.mccallum@waveney.gov.uk.

Crucial business and skills funding secured



£330,000 to help businesses be more energy efficient:

Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District councils and Groundwork East of England have secured £338,524 of European funding to help small and medium businesses in the rural coastal areas of the districts save money by becoming more energy efficient.

Cllr Buce Provan, Cabinet Member for Economic Development said: "The East Coast Carbon Efficiency (ECCE) project represents a joined-up approach for rural businesses, showing not just how they can save energy, resources and money but also opportunities to receive grants to carry out any necessary works to implement those savings". As well as improving resource efficiency for around 200 rural businesses, the project aims to encourage and support the growth of locally based companies to review and 'green' their supply chains securing a stronger local economy. The project includes energy

audits to identify where savings and efficiencies can be achieved, the development of green procurement strategies so that companies buy environmentally friendly services and products, as well as grants to help companies make the necessary changes. The partnership secured funding from the European Regional Development Fund (Competitiveness Programme), towards a total project cost of £854,000. Environmental business advisors from Groundwork East of England will carry out comprehensive energy and resource use assessments and calculate the carbon footprint of each business, with an action plan to achieve savings. Small or medium sized enterprises interested in the project should contact the Project Coordinator on 01502 523393 or e-mail ecce@groundwork.org.uk. For further info visit: www.waveney.gov.uk/ecce.

£340,000 for offshore wind industry training and skills:

As a part of a £1.7 million project, Waveney will receive over £340,000 to develop the training and skills local people will require to work in the offshore wind industry.

The 'Building European Environmental Maritime Skills' (BEEMS) Project is being led by Southampton City Council and will be delivered over two years by a UK/French partnership of regional and local authorities, industry associations, educational institutions and training providers. Waveney are one of four UK councils involved in the project and are the only local authority in an East of England partnership which includes Marine East, Lowestoft College and the East of England Energy Group. The investment will provide Waveney and partners with further resources to compete in the growing marine renewable energy market. BEEMS will ensure that local people get the necessary skills they need to work in this rapidly expanding

industry - which is projected to create around 47,200 new jobs in the UK in sectors like wind farming.

Cllr Bruce Provan, Cabinet Member for Leisure, Tourism and Economic Development said: "This project will really help to ensure that Waveney creates a workforce with the skills to place us at the forefront of the offshore wind industry. The Funding will also help local small businesses play a part in the supply chain and I am delighted that the hard work which went in to this project is paying off."

The funding was agreed at a summit hosted by Suffolk County Council. Cllr Judy Terry, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for economic development, welcomed the funding. She said: "This is excellent news. Suffolk is increasingly leading the way in green energy production and I'm confident that this new funding will help us do even more."

“ A joined-up approach to help make savings. ”

-Cllr Bruce Provan

“ Suffolk is leading the way in green energy. ”

-Cllr Judy Terry (Suffolk CC)

Supporting role brings national award

Beating off a host of “excellent entries”, Waveney District Council has scooped a national award at an event in London.

The National Association of Civic Officers (NACO) presented the Council's Democratic Services Team with the 'Civic Office of the Year Award for 2011', recognising their outstanding efforts in supporting and promoting the roles of Council Chairman and Mayor of Lowestoft. Both civic roles provide valuable backing and support for community and charitable groups in the district and it is the tireless efforts of the supporting team, led by Democratic Services Manager Donna Offord, which has been officially recognised.

The team works hard to ensure that local community groups and organisations are supported, feel appreciated, can make links with their local Council and Councillors and are able to make use of publicity opportunities to promote their own organisations' aims and objectives. Chairman of Waveney District Council, Cllr Peter Collecott said: "It is because of this

dedicated team that my time as Chairman has been so positive and enjoyable. The phrase 'beyond the call of duty' is often quoted to describe dedicated individuals but I can honestly say that at Waveney we have an extremely professional and efficient team who typify this sentiment."

Former Mayor of Lowestoft Cllr Tod Sullivan said: "Here in Waveney we are blessed with people who understand the unique blend of personality and history / heritage attached to these positions and I could not have been better supported in my role. It has been my pleasure to work with such a successful and supportive team." This accolade follows the award to Waveney of 'Charter Plus' status for Member Development. A standard only achieved by two Councils in the East of England thus far and which recognises the very high standards of work undertaken to support Councillors in their work and enable them to improve the service they provide to their communities.



“ A pleasure to work with such a successful and supportive team ”

- Cllr Tod Sullivan

Police & Crime Commissioner elections: NOVEMBER 15th

Suffolk will be one of 41 areas across England and Wales that will be holding elections on Thursday, November 15 to elect its own Police and Crime Commissioner.

Waveney Chief Executive Stephen Baker is the Suffolk Police Area Returning Officer (PARO) responsible for running the election which will elect a PCC to be accountable for how crime is tackled in their police force area. The successful candidate will work alongside the Chief Constable to

combat crime and deliver the police service within their force area. The Government has brought in PCCs to provide stronger and more transparent accountability of the police. A special Suffolk website has been launched which includes important and relevant information and links. This can be found here: www.suffolkparo.org.uk The election will be held using a system called the 'Supplementary Vote' system. With this system, each voter has TWO votes, a 1st

choice vote and a 2nd choice vote. A voter does not have to cast a 2nd choice vote but they must cast a 1st choice vote for their paper to be counted. If one of the candidates in the election receives more than 50% of the 1st choice votes

then they are elected. If this does not happen, the top two candidates go through to a 2nd stage. Vote totals in Waveney will be collated with every other Council across the Suffolk Force area to give the overall winner.



Better broadband moves a step closer



I'm backing...
**BETTER
BROADBAND
FOR SUFFOLK**

Suffolk County Council have confirmed that BT will be the preferred bidder for a £40million contract to bring broadband to all parts of Suffolk.

The county has one of the poorest broadband networks in the country, with an average speed of under 5 megabytes per second, but an ambitious £41.7 million project supported by local councils including Waveney, businesses and national government is set to bring the area into the 21st century.

With the only other bidder pulling out of the race to bring super-fast internet to the county, it is expected that BT will begin to roll-out services during the next two years.

More than 12,000 homes and businesses in Suffolk registered for the 'Better Broadband for Suffolk' including many thousands in the Waveney area.

The programme should now see most properties in Suffolk enjoying a minimum speed of 5Mbps by early 2015, with properties in towns

getting a minimum of 15-20Mbps.

Currently, speeds in rural areas can be far lower – hampering both businesses and household consumers.

BT, which has its research and development centre at Adastral Park near Ipswich, has also been named as the winner of a contract to provide similar services in Norfolk. Norfolk and Suffolk County Councils have been working together on their broadband bids and Waveney District Council Leader Colin Law, also a Suffolk County Councillor, is delighted with the progress that has been made.

"This is great news for Suffolk and for Waveney and will help bring the county out of the technological slow lane. With an expanding renewable energy sector and the promise of thousands of new jobs on our doorsteps, businesses need to know they can rely on industry standard broadband speeds.

Waveney means business and this is a truly important announcement."

“
Waveney means business and this is a truly important announcement
”

- Cllr Colin Law

Councils combine to get even greener

Waveney and Suffolk Coastal's determination to be greener councils is mapped out in a brand new 'greenprint' for the future published by the two local authorities.

The Joint Environmental Sustainability Policy and Action Plan (JESPAP), brings together all the councils' environmental policies and shows how they intend to take action with local partners to go even greener.

Both Councils have a track record of working to reduce their own environmental impacts while also involving others to make an even bigger impact. The JESPAP highlights some of the successes already underway thanks to the Councils, such as the free Suffolk Coastal Business Energy Advice

Service run by Groundwork East of England which in three years has helped 146 local businesses find potential savings of nearly £700,000, and the Waveney Harbour Ward Community Energy Saving Programme managed by Bright Green which has seen £2.6m spent on efficiency and heating measures to reduce the fuel bills of householders in most need.

"This plan sets goals and actions and details how, by working with others, we will not only protect our unique natural environment but also reduce our impact on the wider environment, by taking measures which will lower our districts' carbon footprint and help reduce the levels of climate change we will need to adapt to," said Cllr Stephen Ardley, Waveney's Cabinet Member for the

Green Environment.

Both Councils have a range of existing documents including a Sustainability Action Plan, a Local Agenda 21 Charter, a Climate Change Strategy and a Green Travel Plan, and all of these have been revisited and turned into the JESPAP.

The JESPAP has been developed alongside the second Suffolk Climate Change Action Plan. The action plan includes improving the energy efficiency of Waveney's Council homes, working with the Environment Agency, Town and Parish Councils and others to develop appropriate local emergency plans; promoting community-led planning and local environmental action; and promoting recycling and waste reduction.

“
We are taking measures which will lower our districts' carbon footprint
”

- Cllr Stephen Ardley

Reductions to Council Tax Benefits and Discounts...

From April 2013 Council Tax BENEFITS will be set by councils and NO LONGER by the Government's Department for Work and Pensions.

The Government is also giving councils new powers to make changes to Council Tax DISCOUNTS (paid to those with empty/second homes).

However, councils will receive 10% LESS money to allocate these benefits and discounts - so we must therefore MAKE CHANGES.

Using the SMALLER pot of money that the Government has made available, we must decide how much council tax support to give to different claimants...

But where and how should we make these changes...?

Option 1:

Reduce the discount to anyone of working age
This would have the effect of 'making work pay', by reducing the amount of benefits available to those who are not working or working and receiving some benefit and increasing the incentive to work.

Option 2:

Remove the discount for owners of 2nd homes.
This would ensure that owners of second homes, who currently only pay 90%, make an equal contribution to the local area.

Option 3:

Remove the discount for owners of empty homes
This would help bring empty properties back into use so that they can be used to house local families.

Option 4:

End the second adult rebate
This would stop those who are not entitled to council tax benefit from getting support because they share a house with someone who has a low income.

...last chance for YOUR views!

Please complete the simple questionnaire on www.waveney.gov.uk.
Click on the link which says 'Council Tax discounts' The questionnaire closes on October 25th 2012 - your opinions count, we want to know what you think!