

TOWN

intouch!

WITH YOU AND WAVENEY AUGUST 2011



WHO'S WHO?

New Councillors, new Cabinet, making decisions that affect YOU

SUMMER FUN

Fantastic events and activities for the school holidays, right here

CUT YOUR BILLS

Teaming up with British Gas to reduce the amount you spend on heating



WWW.WAVENEY.GOV.UK WWW.TWITTER.COM/WAVENEYDC

The exciting refurbishment project at Waterlane Leisure Centre continues and is on schedule for completion in December 2011.

Managed by Waveney District Council, the multi-million pound revamp will see new facilities at the Lowestoft site, including a new learner pool, soft play area, thermal spa, beauty therapy area and meeting rooms.

Alongside these there is a refurbished and improved fitness areas, dedicated studio space, main pool and café / restaurant. The centre will then be managed by the newly formed Sentinel Leisure Trust.

Deputy Leader of the Council, Cllr Stephen Ardley said: "This project is really beginning to take shape now and I cannot wait for the day when we can open the doors of this fantastic new facility.

A range of exciting membership packages will be launched in the Autumn, including the offer of a lifetime price guarantee. If you would like to track the project as it develops please visit www.pulseselect.com/home and click on the 'Waveney' page. The Operations Team of Sentinel Leisure Trust are also working on the programming and the activities for the new facility and the aim is to have these publicised by the end of October.

Meanwhile, with the installation of electric hook up for visiting boats one of the major obstacles to attracting boating holiday makers to Beccles has now been overcome.

Sentinel Leisure Trust in partnership with Waveney have now installed posts in the quay area and have received positive feedback from tourists who have been able to extend their stay in the Beccles area.

WATERLANE ON SCHEDULE



THE SHOW GOES ON!

With a remarkable number of high calibre applicants seeking to become trustees of the Marina Theatre, Waveney District Council hailed its recruitment open evening an enormous success.

Both the Council and theatre management teams alike were delighted with the turnout and - subject to final Council approval of the decision - believe the rigorous selection process will deliver a brilliant team to guide the theatre as part of the new charitable, not-for-profit organisation. Many local people with specialist skills attended the open evening in Lowestoft on June 16 to learn more about the opportunity, and how they could work together to ensure the long-term sustainability of the award-winning Marina Theatre. Cabinet Member for Partnerships Cllr Stephen Ardley said: "We couldn't be more delighted with the response we've had so far and I am certain that the theatre would be in very safe hands."

Subject to business case approval by the Council's Cabinet, Trustees will form the Governing Board that takes over the running of the Edwardian theatre, which is currently operated by Waveney. The Trust will continue delivering a diverse range of cultural entertainment, building on the venue's success in recent years. Waveney's Cabinet is due to consider the final Business case proposal from the Shadow Trust in November and, if successful, the Trust will formally take over the management of the Theatre in December.

FIVE STAR BEACHES



Waveney now boasts FIVE award-winning beaches, with three flying the prestigious Blue Flag this year and two more gaining Keep Britain Tidy Quality Coast Awards.

The hard work of a range of Waveney teams, with Tourism and Cleansing most prominent, has helped raise the standard yet higher, boosting the profile of the district as a great destination. Beaches at Lowestoft North and South of Claremont Pier have retained Blue Flags – an internationally recognised symbol of a clean and well-managed beach – for the 2011 season, whilst the beach at Southwold Pier has regained Blue Flag status after a two year absence. 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.

More success came when two further beaches – Southwold Denes and Kessingland – won Keep Britain Tidy Quality Coast Awards for the 2011 season. The Quality Coast Award recognises the diversity and quality of England's coastline and all beaches achieving this award have one thing in common: they provide the very best standards for their visitors.

Accolades such as Blue Flag and Quality Coast Awards are of great benefit to the local tourism industry. The Sunrise Coast Visitor Survey 2010 identified that 69% of visitors to the area had to or intended to visit our beaches during their stay, highlighting just how important they are to Waveney's £255 million tourism economy, which attracts just under four million visitors per year, supporting 12.8% of all jobs.

For more information about the beaches near you please go to the tourism website www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk; for further details on Keep Britain Tidy and Blue Flag visit www.keepbritaintidy.org; and for the Quality Coast Award visit www.qualitycoast.org.

VALUING THE VALLEY

A project co-founded by Waveney District Council to create greater awareness of the Waveney Valley as a tourism destination has received crucial funding.

The Waveney Valley Identity Project is a partnership between Waveney, South Norfolk and Mid Suffolk District Councils

and seeks to provide an identity for the Valley, improve signage to the towns, villages and features within the Valley and support promotion of the Valley as a visitor destination. As such, the three Councils with communities in the Waveney Valley have come together to develop this project, which has recently been allocated approximately £90,000

worth of funding through the Rural Development Programme England, funded by Defra. Cllr Bruce Provan, Portfolio Holder for Tourism, said: "By developing the infrastructure around the Valley we hope that visitors will be able to discover the wonders that this special area has to offer." For information on the project email sunrisecoasttourism@waveney.gov.uk

REDUCING YOUR ENERGY BILL



Waveney District Council is committed to increasing the energy efficiency of all the homes in our area, and have teamed up with British Gas to make it easier for residents to save money on their energy bills.

Did you know that through this scheme, you could receive cashback up to £100 just for insulating your home? Or that you could insulate both your loft and cavity walls and save hundreds of pounds a year on your energy bills?

If you own your home or rent privately, and receive certain income-related benefits, or are over 70, you may even qualify for FREE insulation. And you don't even have to be a British Gas customer to take advantage. You just have to own or rent a home within Waveney.

Portfolio Holder for Housing Sue Allen said: "At a time when utility bills are rising, we are seeking ways to lessen the blow and this particular scheme could make a real difference to many households

To arrange a free, no obligation survey to check whether your home is suitable for insulation improvements, or to simply find out more about this scheme, customers should call 0800 980 8174 and quote the code 'Waveney11'.

Lines open Monday – Friday 8am-8pm and Saturday 8am-4pm. Your calls may be recorded and/or monitored for quality assurance and compliance purposes. 0800 numbers are free from a BT landline. Mobile and other providers' charges may vary.

If you would like to be able to reduce your energy bills and ensure that your home is warmer and cheaper to run next winter, please do not miss this excellent opportunity to do so.

TAKING ACTION TO HELP TENANTS

Waveney District Council's Housing Team has been praised for its efforts to improve the lives of tenants.

To help improve the service, the Housing Department spoke to tenants late last year about the housing service and the area in which they lived. Over 1400 tenants were contacted in early January and talked face to face about their views. Additionally a series of focus groups were staged, all leading to a presentation for tenant representatives and councillors to agree a new action plan in response to the points raised by our tenants.

Two documents were sent to all tenants: "We asked...You said", and "You said...We did". The latter included a full list of the agreed actions and direct answers to concerns; including improving how the council deals with low level nuisance by in-



roducing an 'Estate Ranger' on two estates in Lowestoft and improving the level of grounds maintenance in Waveney by developing a tenant led agreement with our partners Waveney Norse.

The Housing Team is due to report back to tenants in October next year to see how the action plan is progressing. For now though, tenants are enthusiastic about it.

Mandie Wiles (the editor of the tenant's magazine) said: "This really was a good piece of tenant engagement with views and comments really being taken into account.

"I know the Action Plan genuinely reflects those views as I was one of the five tenants involved in deciding what should be in the plan after listening to a detailed presentation of the survey feedback."

FAIRER FOR ALL

Following wide consultation with businesses and community groups, proposals for revised car parking charges throughout the district were approved by Cabinet recently.

With the emphasis on balancing revenue to maintain existing facilities with value for money to encourage visitors and shoppers, the revised scheme includes a number of price reductions across the district. Additionally, previously introduced 'free parking' incentives are also being retained.

Deputy Leader Stephen Ardley (right, with Head of Service David Gallagher) said: "Car parks provide a vital revenue stream to the Council and we have to be very careful to get our prices exactly right. Too cheap and our revenue drops, too expensive and customers are rightly put off. "

Proposals include:

- * General alignment and simplification of car parking fees and charges across the district to improve clarity and consistency, providing some reduced parking fees.
- * Continued Free Parking from 6pm throughout the district, all year round, assisting businesses and sea front traders.
- * Continued provision of reduced all day parking on selected outer car parks to support businesses and tourism.

* Introduction of additional and extended free spaces in Bungay and Halesworth in line with previous changes in Beccles.

Elsewhere, charges will be introduced for 'blue badge' holders in line with other regional authorities and while some 'longer stay charges' are coming down, the vast majority of increases are by no more than 5p per hour to round up charges where machines no longer accept 5p coins.

Reflecting on the decision to begin charging Blue Badge Holders Cllr Ardley continued: "The main purpose of the blue badge scheme is to reserve parking in convenient locations closer to the holders' destination. However, in the interests of fairness, there is no reason for it to be a discount scheme.

"Disability should not automatically be confused with vulnerability. Many drivers with disabilities receive a special mobility allowance to help with their transport costs.



Nevertheless, Blue Badge holders WILL receive additional time for the charges they pay in recognition of the increased time it can take to leave and return to their vehicle.

"Additionally, revenue will assist in the upgrade of car parks to improve accessibility and increase number of disabled bays. Also free on-street parking WILL continue for Blue Badge holders."

KEEPING YOU SAFE

Criminals in Lowestoft are being warned that their chances of being caught on camera are now greater following the introduction of a new digital CCTV system in the town.

The new digital equipment, which covers much of the shopping and night life heart of Lowestoft, and other busy areas of the town, was unveiled in May and since then

has helped in both the prevention and detection of crime.

New figures provided by Waveney Norse, who operate the system on behalf of Waveney District Council, show the system is already having promising results. In March, before the introduction of the new system, 37 reviews of CCTV material were carried out to see if the inci-

dent police were interested in had been captured. In 26 of these there was a negative result with no evidence found, while 11 were positive - the CCTV cameras caught evidence that could be used in court - a success rate of 30%.

In May, when the new system was up and running, 40 reviews were carried out with 22 positive results - a 55% success rate.

PRESERVING WAVENEY'S HISTORY

Waveney District Council's Design & Conservation team are committed to a rolling programme of work designed help to preserve and protect the district's beauty.

The historic environment is all around us in the buildings, landscapes and archaeology of Waveney. It is a precious and irreplaceable asset; once gone it is gone forever!

With this in mind, "Conservation areas" were introduced in 1967 as a way of managing the historic environment, by ensuring that physical changes cannot be made without local planning authority consent. However, within these broad agreements Waveney District Council has worked

closely with its communities to ensure that they are suitable for each town and village.

There are no fewer than 14 conservation areas managed by Waveney and following work in the villages of Wrentham and Somerleyton, all 14 now have up-to-date 'conservation area appraisals' and 'management plans' which can be viewed on the Waveney District Council website.

As elsewhere, residents in Wrentham and Somerleyton were invited to attend a public exhibition to give their views on proposals and with fully up to date plan in place, the local residents are now fully aware of what is and isn't permissible in relation to historic buildings, land and development. As

an example, certain types of work are usually permitted without the need to apply for planning permission. However, an 'Article 4(2) direction' was imposed, meaning that planning permission is required to make changes of design or material to any part of a property facing a public thoroughfare.

Including those managed by the Broads Authority, there are 16 conservation areas in Waveney. They are in North and South Lowestoft, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth, Southwold, Southwold Harbour, Walberswick Quay, Homersfield, Holton, Wissett, Wrentham (pictured), Wangford, Somerleyton, Ellingham and Oulton Broad. The latter two are managed by the Broads Authority, as are some small parts of Beccles, Bungay and Somerleyton that fall within the Broads Authority area.

If you want to learn more about the plans for where YOU live, simply look up 'conservation areas' in the A-Z directory. For further information, or clarification as to whether work you propose requires planning permission, please contact Waveney's Planning Team on 01502 523072 or the Broads Authority on 01603 756074.



YOUR VIEWS ON PLANNING

The Council is seeking the views of its communities on planning documents which have been designed to provide important guidance on what can and can't be done to buildings and open spaces in the district.

These 'Supplementary Planning Documents' have been created too assist developers understand Local Development Framework policies and proposals. However the Council would like as many people as possible to see them, before they are approved. The first, dealing with 'Open

Space', is designed to assist applicants applying for planning permission by informing them about the planning process, new development and open space. This includes standards for open spaces and an explanation of the financial contributions required to provide new (or improve existing) open space.

The 'Built Heritage and Design' document provides guidance relating to the modification, maintenance and replacement of historic buildings within the District. Areas covered include shop front design, lighting,

advertising, satellite dishes, replacement windows, locally listed buildings, renewable energy, sustainable construction and conservation areas.

These consultations will take place over the next few months. Similar documents to be prepared shortly include Affordable Housing, Development and Coastal Change and a development brief for the south side of Lake Lothing, Lowestoft. Visit www.consult.waveney.gov.uk for the latest information, or call 01502 523029 / email planningpolicy@waveney.gov.uk.

WAVENEY'S SPORTING HEROES



Waveney's sporting stars who shine on the local, national and international stage were recently recognised by the Active Waveney Sports Awards.

Individuals and organisations that have demonstrated success throughout the year or have made a significant contribution in a non-playing capacity were honoured.

The Active Waveney Sports Partnership is a key player in shaping the current and future provision of sport and physical activity in the district. The Active Waveney Sports Awards is supported and promoted in partnership by Active Waveney Sports Partnership, the Schools Sport Partner-

ships for Lowestoft & Beccles and High Suffolk, the Lowestoft Journal and Waveney District Council.

Among the many awards handed out, best sportsman this year is Lowestoft's Anthony Ogogo who won a Silver Medal at the 2010 Commonwealth Games and is a genuine Olympic hopeful as part of the ABA Great Britain Squad.

The best sportswoman award also went to a boxer. Charley Davison won silver at the inaugural AIBA Women's Junior and Youth World Boxing Championships last year. She enjoyed an exceptional 12 months, also winning the Gold Medal at the Euro-

pean Championships 2010. Charley is currently ranked No. 1 in Europe and No. 2 in the World.

Gymnast Giarnni Regini-Moran won the best junior sportsman award having finished in the medal positions at the London Open, the Pegasus Open, the National Elite Grades, the English Championships and the British Championships and Caitlin Dyer, also a gymnast was presented with the best junior sportswoman prize.

Meanwhile, Lowestoft Ladies Hockey Club claimed the best team trophy after finishing fourth in the top tier of the East Regions Hockey league.

ROYAL APPROVAL

On 1st June The Princess Royal took time out from a busy schedule to visit and officially open the new community complex in Kessingland.

The Marram Green Complex houses Kessingland Library, a sheltered housing development and a cafe, and is used by a number of local community groups. The Princess (pictured right, meeting Council Chairman Peter Collecott and Mrs Collecott) spent just over an hour at Kessingland touring the building meeting residents, Parish Councillors, Waveney &

Library Staff and other invited guests. Whilst there she was entertained by a choir made up from local children and residents. This is the first time that a member of the Royal family has visited Kessingland and it was a wonderful day for all concerned.

The visit was organised by the Flagship Group who own the building and their staff worked tirelessly to make it the success it was. Marram Green complex houses Parish Council Offices, a Community Cafe and a Library as well as the 32



Very sheltered housing units. Waveney District Council and the Citizens Advice Bureau are available at The Compass Suite, first floor Marram Green every Wednesday from 10am to 4pm, no appointment necessary.

YOUR COUNCILLORS: 2011-2015

Beccles North  Graham Elliott 01502 714661	Beccles North  Chris Punt 01502 575518	Beccles South  Keith Jenkins 01502 713494	Beccles South  Alan Thwaites 01502 714161	Blything  Alison Cackett 01986 874442	Bungay  John Groom 01986 894681	Bungay  Simon Woods 01986 896040	Carlton  Stephen Ardley 07828 135819
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Harbour  Tess Gandy 0778 698 1655	Harbour  Ian Graham 07985 462200	Harbour  Julian Swainson 07771 810037	Kessingland  Alan Brown 01502 518801	Kessingland  Bruce Provan 01502 742079	Kirkley  Yvonne Cherry 01502 582114	Kirkley  Gareth Douce 07759 531707	Kirkley  June Ford 07754 528147
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Pakefield  Sonia Barker 01502 580065	Pakefield  Peter Byatt 01502 568115	Pakefield  Malcolm Pitchers 01502 538413	Southwold & Reydon  Sue Allen 01502 722768	Southwold & Reydon  Michael Ladd 01502 724337	Saint Margarets  Allyson Barron 01502 560258	Saint Margarets  Roger Bellham 01502 565499	Saint Margarets  Malcolm Cherry 01502 582114
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Waveney District Council moved to 'all out' elections this year meaning that, for the first time, all 48 seats were contested at the same time.

The election produced one of the more dramatic outcomes, courtesy of a dead heat: 23 Conservatives, 23 Labour, 1 Green, 1 Independent. This means that the Council is now under 'no overall control' by one party and, after discussions about the formation of a new administration, Independent Member, Cllr Peter Collocott was elected as Chairman and used his casting

vote to elect Conservative Group Lead Cllr Colin Law as Leader of the Council.

Cllr Law replaces former Leader Cllr Mark Bee (both pictured, right) who stepped down from the role at the election. Cllr Law, has subsequently formed a new administration (details of which are on page 10).

In terms of how the make-up of the District Council has changed, the Conservatives lost two seats, the Labour group gained eight seats, the Liberal Democrats lost their only two seats, the Independents lost

two seats, the Greens retained their one seat and the two vacant seats were filled.

Cllr Law said: "I want to ensure that we remain recognised as a high-performing authority and a benchmark for other councils. The previous Conservative Administration managed its finances so well, it had no need to cut any frontline services at the last budget. Therefore, in many ways, it will be business as usual here at Waveney.

"I am determined to settle for nothing but the best for Waveney and its communities.

Conservative	23	Labour	23	Green	1	Independent	1
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Carlton	Carlton Colville	Carlton Colville	Carlton Colville	Gunton & Corton	Gunton & Corton	Halesworth	Halesworth
							
Frank Mortimer 01502 565915	Jose Bamonde 01502 566065	Kathleen Grant 01502 587792	Paul Light 01502 514775	David Coulam 01502 567550	Mary Rudd 01502 562073	Paddy Flegg 01986 872391	Tony Goldson 07808 776245

Lothingland	Normanston	Normanston	Normanston	Oulton	Oulton	Oulton Broad	Oulton Broad
							
Paul Ashdown 01502 573948	Peter Coghill 01986 873203	Keith Patience 01502 582283	Jacki Wheatley 01502 723628	Peter Collecott 01502 564396	Mike Ives-Keeler 01502 731908	Mike Barnard 01502 562458	Colin Law 01502 573389

The Saints	Wainford	Whitton	Whitton	Whitton	Worlingham	Worlingham	Wrentham
							
David Ritchie 01986 783889	Kevin Springall 01502 714922	Tod Sullivan 01502 526933	Nick Webb 01502 514464	Sarah Webb 01502 514464	Mark Bee 01502 717481	Andy Draper 07795 033822	Martin Parsons 01502 744307

I will be a listening Leader, determined to learn from the people of Waveney, ensuring we deliver what is in their best interests.

“Our number one priority is to ensure that the needs of our most vulnerable citizens are met and that we continue to deliver services which they want and need. We must continue to build on the excellent performance ratings we have received from our tenants and make sure that the voices of those hardest to hear are not ignored.”



NEXT GENERATION



Gareth Douce is hoping to bring a 'fresh, youthful focus to Waveney' following his election in May as a Labour Councillor for the Kirkley ward.

A first time candidate, at the age of 24 he is the youngest councillor currently serving on the Council and says he is thrilled to be given this fantastic opportunity. Gareth comes from a local family and grew up in the area, going to local schools; Kessingland Primary, Gisleham Middle and Sir

John Leman High. In his working life he has worked in a variety of jobs; in public libraries, ASDA and recently as IT support in schools.

Gareth said: "Although councillors all work hard and do their best for their communities, there might be a feeling that some of them have been there for ever! I'm a normal young guy, who does an every-day job and I hope I can bring fresh ideas to Waveney."

Gareth says he hopes to be a voice in tough times for the community, but in particular for young people. As the youngest councillor he believes he could have a better grasp on the issues that affect young people.

"I hope to be able to support and strengthen the voice of young people in Waveney, and will be working closely with colleagues to ensure that this happens."

In his first few weeks, Gareth has been active in the community, attending meetings of community groups such as the Fen Park Friends and the Our Kirkley project. He has recently had some graffiti removed from Kirkley that he spotted while touring the ward with Labour County Councillor, Sandy Martin. "I've really enjoyed my first few weeks, and I've deliberately tried not to get trapped in the Town Hall, but to be out in the community; thanking those who supported me during the election by supporting them now."

THE NEW TEAM

One of Cllr Colin Law's first tasks as Leader of the Council was to choose his Cabinet: the Members of the Council who will take on special responsibility for specific service areas.

From left to right:

Stephen Ardley - Deputy Leader / Green Environment & Operational Partnerships,

Andy Draper - Without Portfolio,

Bruce Provan - Leisure, Tourism and Economic Development

Colin Law - Leader of the Council,

Frank Mortimer - Customers & Communities

Mary Rudd - Community Health & Information Technology,

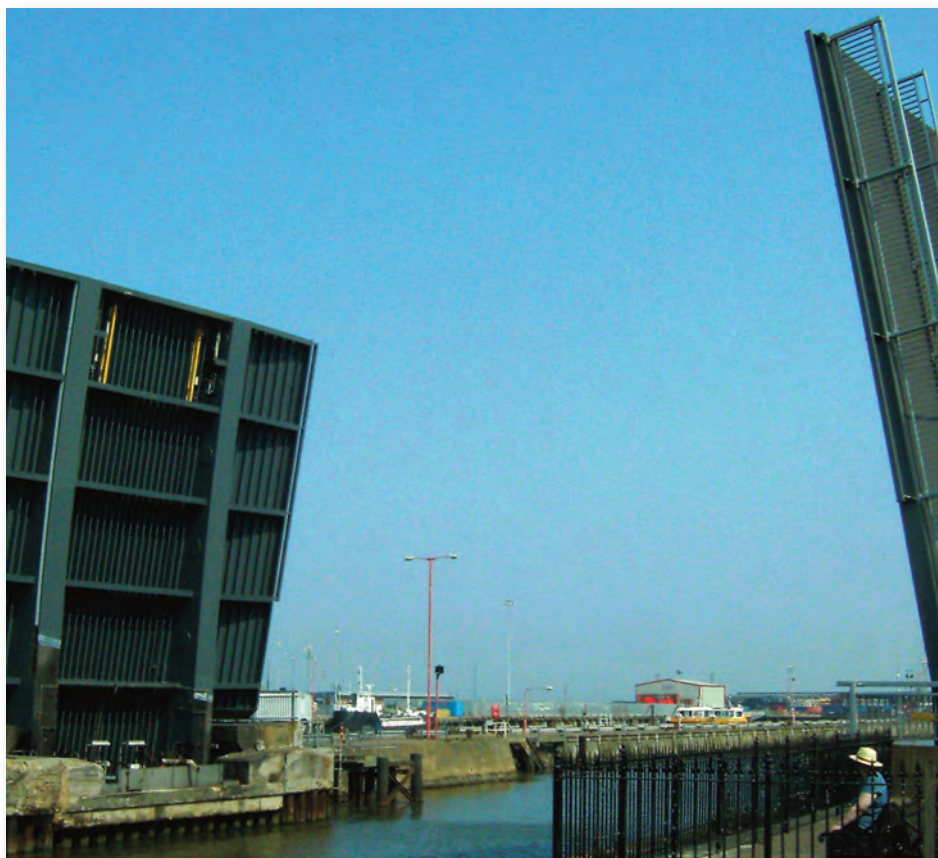
David Ritchie - Planning,

Sue Allen - Housing

Mike Barnard - Resources



BRIDGING THE GAP



Waveney District Council has helped secure funding for Suffolk County Council to improve transport links across Lowestoft.

£5 million has been awarded by central government and together with a £1.25 million investment from the county council, the £6.25million scheme will make it easier for residents and visitors alike to travel around the town and will boost economic growth.

As part of the scheme, a new bridge for pedestrians and cyclists will be built over Lake Lothing to help residents travel more easily within the town and to increase foot-fall to local shops.

Improvements to bus facilities at the rail station will create a hub for all of Lowestoft's public transport. A new 'loop' bus serv-

ice will also be introduced connecting the outskirts of the town to each other and the town centre.

County councillor Guy McGregor, Portfolio Holder for Roads, Transport and Planning, said: "Suffolk County Council, together with Waveney District Council and our local MP Peter Aldous, have worked hard to put the case for Central Government support for this major transport improvement in the heart of Lowestoft.

"This year, Suffolk County Council will be bringing forward a number of other schemes for Lowestoft as part of the county council's policy to make the town even more attractive to walkers and cyclists and to improve the flow of traffic."

Leader of Waveney District Council Colin Law added: "This is news that Lowestoft

BENEFITING YOU

A brand new online system created to speed up residents' applications for benefits has more than halved the amount of time it takes to process an application.

Waveney's new e-Claim system, which allows people to apply for housing and council tax benefit online, or to go through the application with a Member of the team by phone, has been unveiled and whereas previously applicants had to fill in a 28-page form, the new system only asks questions that are relevant to a person's claim.

This will cut the average time it takes to deal with applications from NINE days to FOUR. An e-calculator online also provides the opportunity for residents to estimate if they are entitled to benefits and how much they would likely receive.

Cllr Sue Allen, portfolio holder with responsibility for benefits: "With the country's economic problems continuing to impact families, councils everywhere can expect to see an increase in claims for benefit in the coming year.

"Our new online application system will help us to deal with the increased workload without having to take on more staff and, crucially, without affecting the efficiency of the benefit service we provide."

residents have been waiting to hear. I am grateful to officers here at Waveney for the part they have played and I am absolutely delighted that Suffolk County Council have been able to secure this funding for such a major project."

SERVING UP THE PERFECT COURSE

Food businesses in Waveney and Suffolk Coastal are being given the chance to brush up on food hygiene knowledge and make it possible for staff to gain a food safety qualification.

Food service staff can enrol in a course, led by the two councils, to help businesses improve production, reduce the risk of supplying harmful food, and ultimately attract more customers. Food businesses have a legal responsibility to ensure all of their food handlers are trained in food hygiene matters and this course makes it easy for local eateries to ensure their staff are up to the task. After successful completion of the course, candidates are awarded the nationally recognised Chartered Institute of Environmental Health Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering.

Cllr Mary Rudd, Waveney's Portfolio Holder with responsibility for Food Safety, said: "Food businesses are a vital part of the local economy and we are pleased to offer access to cost effective training that will be hugely beneficial to them. The training emphasises the special responsibilities that anyone who works with food has for safeguarding the health of consumers and, with the course on offer at both Lowestoft and Woodbridge on various dates, food handlers have plenty of opportunities to take advantage of this offer. It's great to see the Waveney and Suffolk Coastal district councils working together to deliver an important service to our communities."

Both Councils also operate a 'scores on the doors' food hygiene rating scheme which marks each eatery out of five for hygiene standards. Links can be found on the homepages of both council's websites.

The cost of the training is £60 per person and includes a handbook, examinations & a certificate. To reserve a place at either of



the two venues email foodsafetyteam@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or call 01394 444357.

Lowestoft course dates (held at the Town Hall in Lowestoft) are:

Monday 11 July 2011
Monday 5 September 2011
Monday 7 November 2011
Monday 9 January 2012
Monday 5 March 2012

Woodbridge dates (held at Suffolk Coastal District Council in Melton Hill) are:

Thursday 11 August 2011
Thursday 22 September 2011
Tuesday 11 October 2011
Tuesday 15 November 2011
Thursday 1 December 2011
Wednesday 18 January 2012
Tuesday 21 February 2012
Thursday 15 March 2012

YOUR PLACE, YOUR VOICE

Communities are seizing the opportunity to shape the future of their villages and towns thanks to training from Waveney District Council.

The training was provided in response to people who felt that they needed some support in better understanding 'Community Led Plans' - the scheme which brings people with a shared vision for the area they live and work together; to identify priorities, such as providing a new community centre, improved transport or improving an area of open space.

With the Government focus on community responsibility, Community Led Plans

provide the tools to fulfil community ambitions and Waveney was delighted to provide further training thanks to funding from the Local Strategic Partnership.

A successful first event - included workshops on setting up and running a new group and accessing funding was held on May 21st in Lowestoft and a further session will take place on Saturday September 17th, at Wenhaston Village Hall.

If anyone would like to attend or learn more about Community Led Planning, contact Jo McCallum, Community Development Officer on 01502 523186 or e-mail jo.mccallum@waveney.gov.uk.



BEING HEARD

A successful Waveney Wide consultation, encouraging young people to voice their issues and concerns and give their views on their local area, saw 400 young people take part.

The Waveney Youth Council (WYC), which has representation from all high schools in Waveney and The Ashley and Warren School, promoted the questionnaire with local schools, youth clubs and youth organisations. Young people were also able to complete the questionnaire electronically through the Waveney Council website and WYC facebook and Twitter pages.

The reason for this consultation was so the WYC could highlight the main concerns facing young people and as a result adopt a set of priorities, which they can look to address, with support from other groups and organisations. The following priorities were agreed at the last WYC meeting;

- Access and cost of transport.
- More facilities for young people

The WYC also agreed on a set of actions as a result of this consultation which they are already moving forward on. For more information on this consultation, the actions and the priorities set by WYC, or simply how YOU can get involved, email youthcouncil@waveney.gov.uk or call 01502 523354.

PLAYING FOR KEEPS

Thanks to the fantastic effort and hard work of local communities, the Waveney Play Partnership has secured funding for some wonderful new play spaces and residents are now enjoying the fruits of their labour.

Driven by Waveney District Council, The Waveney Play Partnership is a district-wide group of representatives from different sectors and geographical areas who are working together to oversee the development and delivery of the local Waveney Play Strategy and action plan for the District.

Bonds Meadow play space

On Saturday 4th June over a hundred local children and residents in Oulton opened their new play space. The new space features play equipment, willow tunnels and parents seating area to encourage families to use open space together and promote community cohesion.



The live willow structures allow children to access and engage with natural elements and wildlife from an early age through play. The project has been achieved through a £50k grant from The Big Lottery Fund's Community Spaces programme applied secured by the Bonds Meadow Association.

Marram Park

June also saw the completion of the new-look Marram Park in Kessingland. This project was funded by a £50k Playbuilder grant and £25k Section 106 contributions from Waveney District Council. The space features landscaped play and equipment for ages up to 13 years and once the grass has established back will offer a very attractive play space at the heart of the largest village in Waveney. The Parish Council has worked very hard to secure the funds for this and they intend to hold a community event in the Easter of 2012, to celebrate their efforts.

Winston Road play space

Children and residents of Reydon are now benefitting from a complete overhaul of the Winston Road play space, thanks to the work of the Waveney Play Partnership. The project cost £50k and was funded through Section 106 contributions from Waveney District Council.

Tibby's Green Southwold:

Extensive engagement with local children in Southwold produced the design specifications to totally transform Tibby's Green. £70k of what is known as Section 106 contributions, generated from the adjacent housing development is funding the project. Southwold Town Council, Waveney District Council and Waveney Norse have been working together to ensure the plans are lead by local children and residents. Construction will commence at the beginning of July and the new layout ready for use by the end of the Summer.

SWITCHOVER SOON

Waveney television viewers have only a few months left before the big switchover to digital TV.

The switchover is a process of turning off the UK's 'analogue' TV signal and replacing it with a new, stronger digital TV signal.

This will mean that, with the right equipment, almost everyone will be able to receive digital TV through an aerial.

The transmitters which provide television signals for Waveney residents will be switched off later this year, in two stages.

Stage one (BBC Two analogue off):

Tacolneston transmitter (Norfolk and north Suffolk): 9 November 2011

Stage two (All analogue channels off)

Tacolneston transmitter (Norfolk and north Suffolk): 23 November 2011

Viewers can find out more by calling the advice line on 08456 50 50 50 or by using

the postcode checker on the Digital UK website:

www.digitaluk.co.uk.

This site provides a wealth of information on the switchover, providing detailed answers to a range of questions you may have about why this is happening.

There is also a Digital Switchover Help Scheme which will be available to you

if you are: aged 75 or over, or have lived in a care home for six months or more, or get (or could get) certain disability benefits, or are registered blind or partially sighted.

For further information on the scheme, call free on 0800 40 85 900 or visit the website www.helpscheme.co.uk. Almost any TV can be converted with a digital box, even a



black and white one so there is no need to buy a new TV unless you want to.

If you do decide to get a new TV, make sure it carries the 'digital tick'. The 'digital tick' means that it is designed to continue working after the switchover.

BETTER TOGETHER

Waveney is continuing to seek ways to save money through its burgeoning relationship with its preferred partner, Suffolk Coastal District Council.

The two councils have shared a Chief Executive since 2008 and in October 2010 a new joint management was created across the two Councils. Since then, both authorities have been busy joining up the

administrative teams who work within the two organisations, with ongoing work in the areas of human resources and customer services just two examples.

Cllr Colin Law, Leader of Waveney District Council said: "Barely a day goes by without reference in the media to the financial pressures on local government and yet - by working jointly - we are able to keep our

costs down – saving over half a million pounds per year so far.

"Additionally, sharing the knowledge, expertise and skills of two organisations means that we can actually provide a much better service overall and we will continue to explore ways to develop the partnership for the benefit of all our communities in East Suffolk."



Waveney District Council is on Twitter!

Follow news and updates from the Council at twitter.com/waveneydc for instant up to the minute information on a variety of services and topics. Several hundred individuals, companies and other groups are already following the council's feed and early activities included the 'live tweeting' of news and results from election night in May!



WHAT'S ON?

There are plenty of fantastic events in Waveney this summer.

For more information on any of the events listed above please contact Lowestoft Tourist Information Centre on 01502 533600 or email touristinfo@waveney.gov.uk.

30th July: Music on the Green

South Green, Southwold

31st July: Dereham Band Concert

Nicholas Everitt Park, Lowestoft

2nd August: The Canterbury Tales

Sparrows Nest Gardens

5th-7th August: Gig in the Park

Halesworth

7th August: Lowestoft Carnival Fete

Royal Green, Lowestoft

7th August: Midlife Crisis Jazz Band Concert

Nicholas Everitt Park

11th & 12th August: Seafront Air

Festival

Lowestoft

13th August: Harvest Moon Festival

Beccles Quay

14th August: Fakenham Town Band Concert

Nicholas Everitt Park

20th & 21st August: Beccles Carnival Weekend

BecclesTown

28th August: Lowestoft Classic Vehicle Club Show

Royal Green, Lowestoft

28th August: Antiques Street Market

Halesworth

29th August: Gala Day

Oulton Broad

3rd & 4th September: 1st Annual Real Ale & Seafood Festival

Pakefield

4th September: Antiques Street Market

Beccles



POOLING RESOURCES

Having handed over the running of Beccles Lido to a community run charitable organisation, Waveney District Council is delighted to see it go from strength to strength.

Over £300,000 has been raised by Beccles Lido Limited to revamp and refurbish it, creating a fabulous facility enjoyed this summer by thousands of visitors!

The Council agreed to hand over the operation of the loss making pool when it became clear that they would be unable to fund the work required to keep it at the standard required. Numbers of users of the old pool had declined over the years (less than 10,000 in 2008), and Beccles Lido Limited's aim when they took over was to "create a destination facility where local people, visitors and tourists would want to visit and where bathers can have fun, keep fit or just relax in the beautiful surroundings of the river Waveney."

This year that vision has been well and truly realised. In just five weeks over 10,000 people visited the pool to swim, sunbathe, use the new springboard and enjoy the delicious food and drink on offer.

Prices are low because the café is run entirely by volunteers. Anyone wanting to help out, for even a few hours a week, should contact info@beccleslido.com. Fund raising activities such as the Beccles Lido Lottery also help keep entrance fees low. The prize fund is over £500 per month and it only costs £2.50 a month to join! Application forms are available from the Lido and can be downloaded from www.beccleslido.com.

Cllr Graham Elliott, Councillor for Beccles said: "The hard work continues, however this is a real success story and I hope our local community will continue to support this fantastic facility."

Beccles Lido is also in the running for a large British Gas grant, but they need your support! Please go to www.energysshare.com/beccleslido and register as a supporter – the best supported groups have the best chance of securing the funds, possibly as much as £100,000!

The pool is open until September 11th - for all the latest news go to:

www.facebook.com/beccleslido
www.twitter.com/beccleslido

GET IN TOUCH

Our Contact Centre is your first port of call for general enquiries.

Call 01502 562111 Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday: 8.30am to 5.00pm.

Thursday: 8.30am to 6.00pm, Friday 8.30am to 4.30pm.

You can also contact the council by email: customerservices@waveney.gov.uk.

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 and 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

Payments

We accept payments by debit/credit card via our automated telephone line: 01502 511805 and on our website:

www.waveney.gov.uk/payments.htm

Local Offices are available in Beccles, Bungay & Halesworth and are open:

Monday to Thursday 9.00am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.30pm, Friday 9.00am to 1pm and 2pm to 4.00pm.

A Drop-In Surgery is also available for enquiries each Wednesday from 10am to 4pm at Marram Green, Kessingland (above the Library). More information is available on our website:

www.waveney.gov.uk.

CHECK YOUR DETAILS



Having successfully completed the District, Parish elections and AV Referendum in May Waveney's Electoral Services Team has moved onto the annual task of updating the Register of Electors ready for publication on 1st December.

Each year the team send out an 'Annual Voter Registration form' to every property in Waveney to give residents the chance to update their details on the Electoral Roll. It is a legal requirement for every household to make a return to ensure they are registered at the correct address for voting. As well as being used for voting, the Electoral Roll is also used to check residence at an address for finance / credit purposes, so it is very important to ensure your details are correct and up-to-date.

Your form will be landing on your doormat from around 15th August. The forms are A4 in size and are pre-printed with the current information that the Register of Electors contains for that address.

If the pre-printed information on the form has not changed then please use one of the automated response methods (telephone, internet or text response) to

quickly and easily confirm that the information is still correct. Information about the automated services is given on the top right-hand corner of the form.

If the pre-printed information on the form is now incorrect then please make any amendments on the form in pen. This can include crossing off the names of people who are no longer resident at the address, adding new residents on to the form, and amending incorrectly spelt names or names that have changed by marriage. If you make any changes to the form it must be signed and then returned to the Elections office by post in the envelope provided.

Using the automated services saves money so please use them if you have no changes to your details. Last year, just under 42,000 households had no changes to make to their details. Of these, over 24,000 were sent back in the post instead of using any of the automated services. As a result this cost the tax payer an extra £2715. Please help us to reduce the costs for everyone by using an automated response method if you have no changes to your details and just as importantly encourage family and friends to do likewise.