

NEWS FROM WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL MARCH 2007

# intouch

W I T H W A V E N E Y

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Project praised in important report



Waveney District Council  
Serving the Community



# Climate matters

Waveney District Council have underlined their commitment to energy saving and the environment by signing the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change.

The Council acknowledges that climate change will continue to have far reaching effects on the UK's people, places and environment and, by signing the declaration, is committed to working with central government for the delivery of the UK Climate Change Programme, the Kyoto Protocol and the target for Carbon Dioxide reduction by 2010.

Mark Bee, Leader of Waveney District Council said: "The scale of the challenge presented by climate change means that all sectors of the community will have to be involved if we are to meet the targets set. By signing, we pledge to actively tackle climate change in this area and work with others to reduce emissions country-wide.

"By acting together, Local Authorities can have a major impact on national Greenhouse Gas emissions and our efforts to adapt to climate change can help protect us all against the risk of climate change, including extreme weather events, such as flooding."

At Waveney District Council, recently audited figures indicate that the

Authority is already taking on board the issues of energy saving and Cllr Bee is looking for even more effort in this direction. "The exciting Waveney Campus project has challenging green targets in terms of carbon emissions and the use of materials from sustainable sources. Meanwhile, the very magazine that you are reading is now produced on 100% recycled paper.

Meanwhile Cllr Peter Collecott, Chairman of WDC's Sustainability Panel, is calling on residents in Waveney to do their bit. "We are asking everyone in Waveney to help do their bit by focusing on a few simple measures that we can all introduce in to our daily lives – from boiling less water in the kettle to getting cavity wall insulation. By doing this you can help to reduce our carbon dioxide emissions and save money. Ordinary actions can make extraordinary things happen!"

Note: for more information on the Nottingham Declaration go here: [www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/NottinghamDeclaration/](http://www.est.org.uk/housingbuildings/localauthorities/NottinghamDeclaration/)

# Welcome!

A warm welcome everyone to the latest edition of In Touch, the magazine produced for YOU, the residents of Waveney.



Now produced three times a year, this magazine intends to provide you with the very latest news and information about our services

and performance. As you can tell from this diverse and interesting publication there is a lot going on but we continue to seek improvements in everything we do.

One of the reasons for producing this magazine is to help you learn a little bit more about what we do and how we do it. We strive to combine value for money with the highest quality of service and this 'flavour' of the Council hopefully underlines our commitment to YOU, the people of Waveney.

Cllr Mark Bee  
Leader, Waveney District Council.

## Making payments

You can now pay for most Council services without having to visit Council offices or sending a cheque! Payments can be made **via Direct Debit** or over the telephone using our automated service - just call 01502 511805 and have your debit or credit card ready. Or you can head to the Council's website, [www.waveney.gov.uk/payments](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/payments) and follow the instructions.

This service is available for Council Tax, Business Rates, Housing Rent, Housing Benefit Overpayment, Sundry

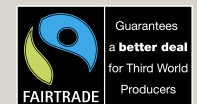
Debtor Invoices, Residents Parking Fines and Car Parks Excess Charges.

**Both services are available 24 hours a day seven days a week except a short period between 11.30pm and 00.15am each day.** If you have any queries please call our payment helpline on 01502 523502. If you are required to leave a message you will get a response within one working day.

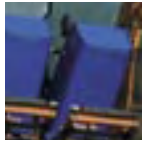
An additional charge of 1.5% is payable on all credit card payments for Council Tax and Business Rates payments. There is no surcharge if you use a debit card.

intouch

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# Recyclers in seventh heaven



Waveney District Council is celebrating the release of statistics for 2005-06 which confirm the Council as the 7th best recycling authority in the entire country.

In only its third full year of recycling Waveney has shot in to the top 10 from 22nd last year, out of 492 local authorities, thanks to the introduction of a three-bin scheme which has been enthusiastically welcomed by the residents of the Waveney District.

The audited figures, which have been released by DEFRA, indicate that more than 46% of all waste in Waveney is now recycled - up from 34% in 2004-05 and a massive increase from the figures for 2003-04 when Waveney was a lowly 307th in the overall rankings.

Cllr Ken Sale, Waveney's Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment is thrilled with the news. He said: "This is an absolutely outstanding achievement and is the result of a real team effort. The people of Waveney understand the importance of recycling and its benefit for the environment and they continue to work hard to make a difference.

"I would also like to pay tribute to our recycling teams at Waveney who work tirelessly to educate and inform our residents both at home and in schools.

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This Council is fully committed to a green agenda and these figures underline that. It is a success story both for Waveney District Council and its residents.

"But we won't stop here. It is our ambition to be the number one recycling authority in the entire country. We will continue to find new ways to improve our record and encourage greater recycling. The hard work will continue for the benefit of us all."



And for details of Waveney District Council's recycling programme go to: [www.waveney.gov.uk/Environment/Refuse+and+Cleasning/Recycling/recycling\\_index.htm](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/Environment/Refuse+and+Cleasning/Recycling/recycling_index.htm) or call the recycling helpline on 01502 523561 or 01502 523460.

## Green waste - winter 06

Green waste collections moved to a monthly basis in mid-December but are due to resume normal alternate weekly collections from the week commencing March 13th. Information 'hangers' were placed on bins prior to Christmas showing the collection sequence. These can also be downloaded from the WDC website at: <http://www.waveney.gov.uk/Environment/Refuse+and+Cleasning/Recycling/Roads+and+Rounds/>.

If you would like a paper copy please contact 01502 523117, or email [recycling@waveney.gov.uk](mailto:recycling@waveney.gov.uk).

## Fed up with junk mail?

You're not alone! Half a million tonnes of junk mail is generated in the UK each year. The average household receives over 220 pieces of unwanted and junk mail, most of which ends up in the bin. Each tonne of junk mail produced uses 17 trees, 7000 gallons of water and 390 gallons of oil! With environmental concerns increasing all the time, the Suffolk Waste Partnership (including Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council and the County's other District and Borough Councils) is encouraging us all to take action to reduce junk mail and help reduce the amount of waste we generate.

Register NOW with the Mail Preference Service and remove your name and address from 95% of mailing lists. Call 0845 703 4599 or register online at [mpsonline.org.uk](http://mpsonline.org.uk).



# Coastal protection update

The work, undertaken by a partnership of Waveney District Council (WDC) and the Environment Agency (EA), was substantially completed in the autumn of 2006 with further works to improve public access to and along the beach due for completion by Easter.

Funding from the Department for Environment Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) was provided to complete all original outstanding scheme tasks, including the building of a new 'promenade to beach' disabled-access pedestrian slope near to the Lifeguard Hut.

Cllr Ken Sale, Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment, said: "We are delighted to have received the funding required to complete this outstanding project. This scheme will safeguard the future of

## The Southwold Coastal Frontage Scheme is drawing to a close!

Southwold seafront and will help preserve this beautiful coastline for generations to come. "We are also very pleased that visitors during the Easter holidays will not be unduly affected. Overall the level of disruption will be far lower than that experienced during 2006."

### • S O U T H W O L D •

Meanwhile Waveney District Council is warning visitors to North Denes to take special care when walking in this area due to an unavoidable natural phenomenon.

Strong southerly winds over the last three months has resulted in the 'scouring' of many beaches over the Waveney frontage and the prolonged exposure of the coast to these winds has

prevented the recovery of the beaches. Because of this, the lowering of the Lowestoft North Denes beach at its southern end has exposed large quantities of concrete and steel reinforcement debris from two previous sea wall constructions. This beach lowering, which occurs periodically and should at least partially recover when the northerly air flows resume, means that the exposed debris of the ruined 1920's Mobbs sea wall constitutes a hazard to beach users.

It has been estimated that this set of circumstances coincide only once in 100 years and it is the persistence of this phenomenon rather than the severity of the winds themselves, that has resulted in the lowering of beaches in parts of Corton, Lowestoft, Easton Bavents and parts of Southwold, as well as at North Denes, and increased the stone content of Lowestoft South Beach.

Cllr Sale said: "Public safety is of paramount concern and we have therefore erected barriers and information signs both to inform the public of the risks and advise walkers to avoid this area of the shore. The promenade between Links Road car park and Ness Point is unaffected and remains open."

# Leisure delight

facilities," said Cllr Stephen Ardley, Portfolio Holder for Operations and Facilities. The development, which had

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a budget of £450K, has refurbished the main wet and dry changing facilities.

The work improves facilities for all visitors, including enhanced disabled changing and improved access to families and community groups.

This development is the start of a programme of investment that is planned to improve all of Waveney sports and leisure centres facilities and will see a joint development with the local college's university campus.

More information on the future investment will be available in the next edition of In-touch magazine. For more information please call 01502 569116.

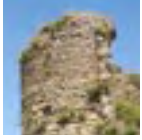
 Local residents are in for a treat with the newly opened changing facilities at Waveney sports and leisure centre.

The new wet and dry facilities will improve visitors' experience, and maybe assist with improving local residents health and wellbeing.

"It is hoped that the investment will attract new visitors to the centre and demonstrate the council's commitment to improve the district's leisure



# Bungay bounces back



Having previously been identified as a rurally deprived area with few amenities, Bungay is reaping the rewards of a European funding scheme administered by Waveney District Council's Economic Regeneration team.

The scheme itself may be a mouthful; the "European Transitional Objective 2/Single Regeneration Budget (SRB) Suffolk Market Towns" scheme, no less! But from 2002 to 2005 it contributed towards the renovation of the town's historic Fisher Theatre, a business plan for creating a new Community Centre, the acquisition of land for new sports provision on the Maltings Meadow at Ditchingham and provision of a Skate Park with hard-surface play area for teenagers. An additional £10,000 was also provided, assisting local Girl Guides to obtain new mobile classroom premises.

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This all followed the appointment of a Projects Officer by Waveney District Council in 2002 who headed a community consultation which identified the major amenities Bungay lacked. And the appointment was so successful that in October 2005, Waveney Community Forum (in partnership with WDC) created TWO new Rural Officers posts, one to cover Bungay and Halesworth and the other, Beccles and Southwold.

And now the remaining funds have been allocated to initiatives in the other Market Towns. Suffolk Youth Clubs in Halesworth and Bungay have received grants of approx. £4,000 to provide mini-bus transport so that members can attend youth club meetings in both towns, and training sessions have been organised at weekend residential courses. Bungay & District Sports Association received a grant of £3,000 to provide tennis-courts on their new Maltings Meadow sports complex, and "And Action" received a similar grant to produce films involving young people. Short ten-minute pilot films have been

completed and it is planned that a full-length dramatic production relating to the local heritage will follow.



As a result of these and other funding opportunities, the Fisher Theatre opened last October following major renovation funded by East of England Development Agency (EEDA), Historic Buildings and Heritage Lottery, totalling nearly £1million.

Cllr Wendy Mawer, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration, said: "Bungay has benefited greatly from this funding and I am proud that Waveney District Council has played its part."

## Village of the year

### Will Waveney provide the Suffolk Village of the Year for 2007?

The winner of the Suffolk competition goes forward to the national competition for the chance of a national title! Judging is over a number of criteria including community spirit, the parish council, the natural environment, general appearance of the village and any special achievements.

Waveney parish councils are being encouraged to enter by Waveney District

Council who are again sponsoring the regional competition and who will decide which two Waveney entries will go forward to the county competition.

All entries must be returned to Jo Archer, Rural Community Cohesion officer at Waveney District Council or sent via email to [jo.archer@waveney.gov.uk](mailto:jo.archer@waveney.gov.uk). **Entries must be in by 5th April 2007.** Waveney District Council are again sponsoring the competition with a £200 cheque as first prize. Council members have kindly agreed to help with the judging again.

And as part of its East Coast Child Campaign Beach Radio have again offered a special prize of £250 for the village that best describes what they are doing to meet the needs of children in their community and how they can spend the prize to better meet their needs.



# Great Gunton



They say that Rome wasn't built in a day and it's no different with the Gunton Community Park, situated just off Montgomery Avenue, North Lowestoft.

What once was a neglected and under used open space, where the abandonment of unwanted vehicles and fly tipping were a regular occurrence, has now become a modern and vibrant

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community facility. It doesn't stop there, as there are further plans to improve the area, with local residents, Police and Waveney District Council working in partnership.

A local voluntary group, known as the Friends of Gunton Community Park, have been instrumental in the development of the 25,000m park. With funding from Transforming Your Space (Big Lottery) and the Lowestoft Together Neighbourhood Management Project, stage one of the project has now been completed. The community group are now ready to continue their excellent work by moving onto stages two and three.

Stage one consisted of installing an enclosed state of the art play area, with modern equipment, and this involved intense planning and consultation with

local people, WDC and contractors.

Stage two will see the development of a wildlife and woodland area and, with the introduction of more trees, plants and shrubs, a gradual increase of wildlife in the area. Stage three will see the construction of a peace garden, enabling the community to relax and admire all the good work that has gone into

making the park a real success story.

Cllr Bruce Provan of Waveney District Council Said: "Green spaces of this kind are a real asset to local communities and there is a recognition that by engaging with local residents in preserving these areas, so much can be achieved. Now the broken play equipment and fly tipping has gone there is something the community can be proud of. We are looking forward to the next stage and creating something that the local people will be able to enjoy for generations to come".

If you live in the Gunton or surrounding area and would like to be involved, please contact the Community Development Team at Waveney District Council on 01502 523186 or 01502 523354.

# Sea views

Waveney District Council has embarked on a process of consultation to review its bye-laws for the Seashore and Promenade covering Corton to Southwold and more specifically Southwold Harbour.

The consultation is engaging with a range of focus groups, statutory services, clubs and organisations and other key individuals. The general scope for the bye-laws will cover the do's and don't's for the public areas, including cycling, skateboarding, use of powered

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water craft, responsibilities of vessels entering the harbour, games, tents, paying of fees and more.

Cllr Ken Sale, Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment, said: "This consultation is very important and will ensure that any action taken is done so on the basis of public opinion."

# A new direction



Waveney District Council has laid down important plans to improve its performance and services for residents in a refreshed 'Strategic Direction' for the Authority.

The document incorporates a refined set of priorities, an understanding of the need to improve in certain areas and an analysis of the Authority's financial position for the next three to five years – and Cllr Mark Bee believes that this will herald a bright future for both the Council and the people of Waveney.

He said: "The revised Strategic Direction represents the culmination of a long and thorough process. We have identified the priorities for our communities in Waveney, consulted on these priorities and considered what needs to be done to ensure these priorities can be realistically delivered.

"It represents a significant change for the Council and will be the framework for the Council to deliver the improvements needed for Waveney. By defining the priorities for the next three to five years, the Council will become more focused and can now deliver a long-term vision for the area."

And Cllr Bee believes there is a new determination to both listen to what residents want and act on their wishes.

He said: "The Comprehensive

Performance Assessment (CPA) review by the Audit Commission in 2004 identified a lack of priority in the Council and inadequate consultation. But this refreshed Strategic Direction has produced a list of priority outcomes based on the views of a wide cross-section in our communities. We have listened and now we intend to act."

Meanwhile the purpose of the Medium Term Financial Strategy is to consider the implications of this Vision. The idea is to

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place the Council's objectives in financial terms to ensure that the Council has adequate resources available.

The Council is continuing its drive to become an enabling authority, so that Waveney does not deliver all services but instead seeks out the most appropriate deliverer of a modern cost-effective service. This is particularly timely in light of the Government's recently published white paper on Local Government.

The Financial Strategy covers the period 2008-09 to 2010-11 and reflects



the Council's activities in areas such as Council Tax, Fees & Charges, Debt Management and Housing Revenue.

Cllr Bee said: "The Medium Term Financial Strategy is designed to ensure we can make responsible judgements about our ability to deliver. By incorporating such a strategy in this report Waveney District Council will ensure it keeps its promises to residents and combines effective service delivery with sustainable, prudent financial management."

The full report on the Strategic Direction and Medium Term Financial Strategy can be found here: [www.waveney.gov.uk/agendas/2006/November/Council/2/](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/agendas/2006/November/Council/2/).

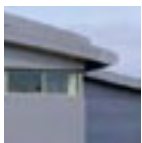
## Priority plans

By asking for your views through extensive consultation exercises last year, the Council has now produced its priority plans. Seven plans have been approved by Portfolio Holders to reflect the seven priority outcomes – Performance, Environment, Community Safety, Housing, Regeneration, Health and Well Being and Customer Access. The plans prioritise the key actions to be completed by the Authority's Service Teams over the next three years, to make Waveney a better place with improved services for you the community. Each of the actions have a corresponding target, so progress can be clearly monitored and measured to ensure the plans remain on track. Anyone wishing to view the plans will find them on the Waveney District Website: [www.waveney.gov.uk/Your+Council/Performance](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/Your+Council/Performance).

Following extensive consultation the Strategic Priorities for Waveney District Council are:

- **Environment** – Value Waveney's environment and protect it for future generations
- **Community Safety** – Reduce crime and anti-social behaviour in Waveney and improve community safety
- **Housing** – Meet the housing needs of the most vulnerable people living in Waveney
- **Regeneration** – Encourage economic vitality and develop cultural activity across the Waveney district and the sub-region
- **Health and Well Being** – Improve the health and well being of Waveney's communities
- **Customer Access** – Improve customer access to information and services
- **Performance** – Improve use of resources and performance

# Transforming Lowestoft



Lowestoft has a great history and new proposals to regenerate the town aim to give it a great future - with ideas to create shops, offices, a new town square, marinas and a 'power park' at England's most easterly point.

All of the ideas in the overall regeneration plan, known as an Area Action Plan (AAP) came out of the first round of consultation by urban regeneration company (URC) 1st East. This has now been approved by Waveney District Council and during January and February residents had a second chance to let us know their views on the preferred option to transform their town.

1st East has proposed six key action areas in each town where it will concentrate on attracting new investment. These are:

- East of England Park (Ness Point)** – an idea for an open events space celebrating the most Easterly point, together with a power park focussing on the new Orbis Energy centre
- Fishers' Wharf (the outer harbour)** – new shops and restaurants themed around the trawling industry, offices and homes
- Peto Square (Station Square)** – a new town square next to the water with shops, offices, restaurants, a new station and a transport hub
- Kirkley Waterfront (the southern side of Lake Lothing)** - a new high quality business and light industry park with a new East-West link road together with the Waveney Campus
- Lothing Crossing** – two locations are identified. Transport and engineering studies will show which is the most suitable.
- Brooke Peninsula (the former Brooke Marine works)** - marina/leisure and community development with around 500 new homes to provide high quality

waterfront living and the potential for 50 water homes.

With 45 hectares of land available for redevelopment in Lowestoft, the AAP is mainly about creating new workspace and will have the capacity to achieve and even exceed the URC's target to

create 2,000 new jobs in the two towns by 2011. Around 1,400 new homes will also be built in and around the waterfront.

If you want to know more about the proposals you can log onto the 1st East website [www.1steast.co.uk](http://www.1steast.co.uk) or the Waveney District Council site [www.waveney.gov.uk/Consultations/lakelothing\\_ap\\_consultation.htm](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/Consultations/lakelothing_ap_consultation.htm).

Over the next few months 1st East and Waveney District Council will look at all of the ideas and suggestions coming from business and the community and will see how they can be incorporated into the plan and, if they cannot, they will let the people who put the ideas forward know why.

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The plans will then be submitted to Ruth Kelly, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government who will hold a public examination – giving local people another chance to have their say about the ideas for their town. If necessary, the plan will then be amended and the final plan will be adopted – probably sometime during 2008.



## Free websites!

'OneSuffolk' supported by Waveney District Council are hosting an event at the Bloodmoor Hill Community Centre in Lowestoft on April 16th where YOU can learn about websites and how the internet could boost YOUR organisation. To book a place call Kerry on 01473 583891 or 07818 005958. And to view examples of the free websites 'OneSuffolk' have already provided, head to [www.onesuffolk.co.uk](http://www.onesuffolk.co.uk).



# Campus latest

The Waveney Campus project has been singled out for high praise in a recent report by special advisor to the Treasury, Sir David Varney.

In it he published his recommendations on transforming the delivery of public services and he identifies significant improvements and cost savings that can be made.

He believes that many of the most positive examples of innovation are in local government and the Waveney Campus project is identified within the report as “an exciting new development in Lowestoft involving the co-location of three local and central government bodies in new offices and laboratories that are part of a wider strategy for improving customer service in the town.”

The three partners, Waveney District Council, in partnership with Suffolk County Council and the Centre for Environment, Fisheries & Aquaculture Science (Cefas: the government’s marine

science agency), are in full agreement and believe the project is a key part of the strategic plans for the area and will act as a catalyst for regeneration.

Cllr Ken Sale, Waveney District Council’s portfolio Holder for the Built Environment

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said: “The decision to pursue the development was not taken lightly and it will provide excellent long-term solutions, such as reducing the burden for Council taxpayers through the efficient use of combined services, such as computer technology, shared reception and meeting areas, cleaning and building maintenance.

“It will enable the regeneration of derelict land and the adjacent quayside and will also secure Cefas’ long-term

future and continued operation within Lowestoft with employment for 400 including 80 new scientific jobs bringing an undoubted boost to the local economy.

“This will be a building with high environmental sustainability: lower CO2 emissions, lower waste and noise outputs, more efficient heating and water solutions, and cycle routes and secure parking to encourage sustainable transport to the site. It will be a landmark, a beacon for regeneration in the area and a project to be immensely proud of.”

The businesses currently occupying the site have been offered financial help and support to relocate to suitable premises elsewhere and if required a fully transparent public inquiry into the compulsory purchase of the land will be held before the summer. Subject to the outcome of the inquiry and the granting of planning permission, construction work would begin in approximately mid-2008.

# Energy boost



The landmark Orbis Energy development in Lowestoft has

been given a £3 million boost.

The East of England Development Agency (EEDA) has increased its investment to £6.7 million, which will help to improve the design and configuration of the iconic building. Detailed planning and development work has shown that there are now opportunities to improve the design of the building that will cement its status as a landmark building and help to improve its long term viability.

Waveney District Council has played a key role in developing and supporting the project and Cllr Wendy Mawer, Waveney’s Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration said:

“Orbis Energy will not only assist the economic regeneration in and around Lowestoft, but will also encourage the development of the supply chain within the renewable energy sector in the East of England.”

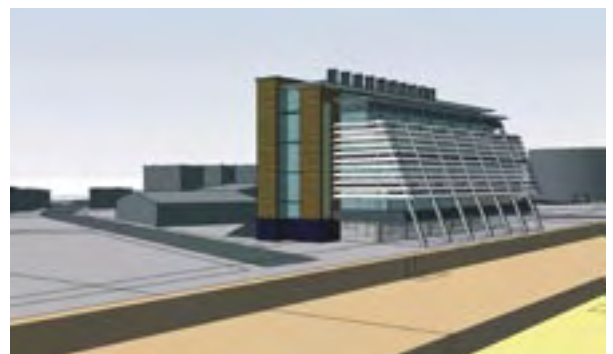
The centre will be built at Ness Point in Lowestoft, and is designed to provide an energy efficient landmark building to stimulate the development of the offshore renewable energy sector for Lowestoft and the East of England. It

will provide high quality, flexible office accommodation for up to 30 companies and will include an area for holding exhibitions and small conferences.

Orbis Energy is being built with support from the East of England

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Development Agency (EEDA), Government Office for the East of England, Suffolk County Council, Waveney District Council, Renewables East and ERDF Objective Two funding.



# Getting kids on the MEND

By 2020, one in five British children will be obese, carrying the type of excess fat that puts their lives in danger.

However, this does not have to be so for Waveney youngsters – they could take part in MEND, a free fun fitness programme for overweight kids (seven to 12-year-olds) running at Kirkley High School in Lowestoft and supported by Waveney District Council. A programme is also planned for the Beccles area.

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MEND - **M**ind, **E**xercise, **N**utrition... **D**o it! - is a scheme from Great Ormond Street Children's Hospital. MEND is NOT a diet, and does not encourage rapid weight loss.

"Children need to see the whole

picture if they are to make healthy choices," said Sarah Barnes, who runs the local programmes on behalf of Great Yarmouth and Waveney PCT. "The scheme helps parents and children work together to understand how they can make changes for a healthy life."

Waveney District Council is supporting MEND by giving each family who attends the scheme a free swimming pass for three months to encourage them to continue being active. Already, 24 families have already completed the scheme locally, with some great results. They are fitter healthier and happier.

Holly, 11, who lives in Lowestoft said: "I have so much more energy, I feel

happier and have more friends." James 12, of Carlton Colville added: "I can now get into jeans and enjoy shopping for trendy clothes, I have learnt new healthy recipes and enjoy cooking with my mum" Eleven-year-old Amanda, of Lowestoft said: "I can join in all the games and I'm now playing football regularly."

If you are interested in what MEND could do for your children and your family, call Sarah on 01502 719533 or visit [www.mendprogramme.org](http://www.mendprogramme.org).



Great Yarmouth and Waveney **NHS**  
Primary Care Trust

## Smoke-free Waveney

To help and advise Waveney businesses to comply with the new smoking law, Simon Hughes has been appointed as the new 'Smoke-free' officer for Waveney District Council.

Smoking is to be banned from virtually all public and work premises from 1st July this year. From this date it will be illegal to smoke in enclosed spaces such as pubs, restaurants, nightclubs, cafes and company vehicles.

"I'm really happy to be helping Waveney to become smoke-free" said Simon. "This is an excellent opportunity to protect employees, as well as improving the health of people exposed to second-hand smoke".

The law is being brought in to protect people at work from the dangerous



effects of other people's smoke. Smoking kills around 300 people per day in the UK, with over 600 a year dying due to exposure to second-hand smoke while at work. The long-term health effects include increased risk of cancer, heart disease, respiratory illness, adult asthma and dozens of other

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health problems. Many people have no choice but to breathe smoke as part of their job; bar workers, betting shop workers and restaurant employees for example. Workers exposed to dangerous fumes are protected in other industries

and now this safety measure is being extended to hospitality workers.

Simon's position is unique in that it is the only one of its kind in Suffolk, provided by funding from Suffolk Strategic Local Partnership. He is available to provide help and advice on all aspects of the smoke-free regulations.

It is estimated that 600,000 smokers will give up smoking, inspired by the new law and for these there is plenty of help available. Suffolk Stop Smoking Service can offer advice, support and training to help people give up. For general information on the new law: 0800 169 1697. The Smoke-free England Website is: [www.smokefreeengland.co.uk](http://www.smokefreeengland.co.uk).

## Stop smoking start living

If you want to make the break, you can increase your chances of success with professional help or medication. We're here to help you go smoke free.

For free one-to-one or group-based advice call Suffolk NHS Stop Smoking Service helpline: 0800 085 6037.

For online help and support and the chance to 'Ask an Expert' visit: [www.GOSMOKEFREE.co.uk](http://www.GOSMOKEFREE.co.uk).

# Tenants' satisfaction

Waveney District Council is delighted with the findings of a survey which indicate that the authority's tenants are "highly satisfied with their homes and the services provided by their landlord".

The Council carried out a survey of tenants through an independent company during the summer of 2006 to assess their satisfaction with the housing service delivered to them.

The Council wanted to know what tenants felt about a range of issues such as their satisfaction with the council as their landlord, their satisfaction with the way they were dealt with

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by the Council, satisfaction with the way repairs were carried out and whether tenants felt there had been an improvement in the housing service delivered to them.

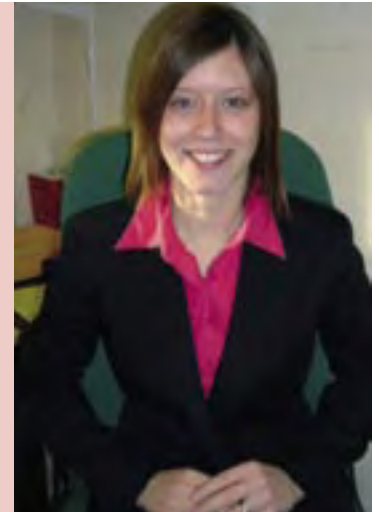
And the report concludes: "The result of the survey demonstrates convincingly that Waveney DC's tenants believe that the Council is providing an excellent housing service".

WDC's Portfolio Holder for Housing Cllr Bruce Provan is pleased with the findings. He said: "Following the tenants' decision to retain the Council as their landlord, we have made every effort to ensure the service delivered is of the highest standard possible – and this independent survey support this.

"The result from the survey demonstrates convincingly that Waveney DC's tenants believe that their council is providing an excellent housing service. Typical figures being reported are that 88% of tenants find staff helpful, 86% feel they obtain good value for money from their rent, and 85% are satisfied with us as their landlord overall.

"I would like to thank all staff for

Waveney District Council's Housing Options Team are looking forward to further positive developments in tackling homelessness.



# Tackling homelessness

The availability of Council properties is now very limited and there are very long waiting lists for all types of accommodation other than sheltered. With this in mind, the role of the private rented sector is now crucial to resolving housing needs in the District.

The Housing Options Team now offer a more accessible 'housing advice surgery' at the Navigator centre, situated within Lowestoft Library. The surgeries are held on a Monday, Wednesday and Friday morning and offer free, confidential advice on housing related matters.

The Council has recently recruited a dedicated private sector liaison officer, Katie Best (pictured above) who is available for advice and

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tenancy related issues. Katie has a strong track record of working in the private sector and will be an asset to the Strategic Housing services Team.

Katie said: "Since its introduction in January 2005, the 'Home Finders Scheme' is continuing its success in working in partnership with private landlords to address the housing needs/options of the people of

Waveney. Our aim is to build upon these achievements by improving and developing the scheme to increase private sector solutions to the benefit of both landlords and tenants."

To contact Katie to discuss any aspect of private sector renting please telephone 01502 523181.

# Can you help?

With a shortage of affordable accommodation empty homes are also a wasted resource. The Council now has the ability to bring long term empty homes back in to productive use. If you live next door to an empty home or know of an empty home within the Waveney District please report it to the Council.

To report an empty home please call 01502 523160 or email [emptyhomes@waveney.gov.uk](mailto:emptyhomes@waveney.gov.uk).

their commitment and hard work. I know that they will see this as a reward for their efforts and this will provide a platform for Waveney District Council to improve the service further to meet the

challenges we face.

The full results of this survey are available on the Council's website [www.waveney.gov.uk](http://www.waveney.gov.uk) and printed versions can be viewed at all council offices.

# Waveney gets FRANK



Waveney District Council's Substance Misuse Officer David Clubley is working with youth organisations under the banner of the 'Harm Reduction Group', to help young people get the right information on drugs.

David says: "The Harm Reduction Group was formed to identify issues around substance misuse, teenage lifestyle issues and alcohol. With this challenge in mind, the Group set up a campaign last year to give young people the opportunity to talk to other young people about substance misuse issues."

In conjunction with 'FRANK', a government initiative providing support and information on substance misuse, six young people from the 'Positive Changes for Young People in Waveney' group, trained for a day as "Peer Educators" before speaking to over 500 students on the facts of substance misuse.

The day took place in partnership with Lowestoft College, NORCAS

(Norfolk Counselling Advice Service) and Waveney CDRP (Crime & Disorder, Reduction Partnership). The young people were also able to talk in confidence to the Peer Educators and professional advisors from the Harm Reduction Team. Every student was also given FRANK literature about substance misuse issues.

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The whole day was a resounding success and is to be repeated, with the same Peer Educators with a new theme around self-esteem and relationships. For further information please telephone: 01502 523357, or website: [www.waveney.gov.uk/harmreductiongroup](http://www.waveney.gov.uk/harmreductiongroup).

# Lowestoft together

Lowestoft has been allocated funding from the Government programme 'Safer and Stronger Communities Fund' (SSCF), for the hugely worthwhile Neighbourhood Management Project.

This programme aims to improve the quality of life for people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods.

At the last Lowestoft Together meeting, Sue Bowring, a local resident, and Margaret Oldham, Manager of the local disability advice service, D.I.A.L., were voted in as co-chairpersons. Waveney District Council's Bob Russell was appointed the Manager in September last year, and since then the Lowestoft Together Board has been created, made up of active members of the community, voluntary groups, and various representatives of local public services. Local councillors are invited to attend meetings and Waveney District Council is the responsible authority for administering the finance.

Margaret Oldham said: "It's all about consulting with the community – and Lowestoft Together is working for the benefit of the community – listening to what it collectively says, and then trying to do something about it. It can make good changes possible, at a very local level. I've been working one way or another in the voluntary sector for many years, and I think this is one of the best government initiatives yet."

Lowestoft Together will be carrying out an intensive survey of residents' perceptions of their own area. The group hope to employ local residents to do the actual survey. "Watch this space" said Sue.

For fuller details of Lowestoft Together, information on projects under way or in the pipeline, contact: Bob Russell, Lowestoft Together Neighbourhood Manager, on 01502 523183 or 07919 427585.

# Play in Waveney

Waveney District Council are inviting residents to help create a 'play' Strategy for Suffolk.

The vision is to create inclusive play opportunities for all children and young people in Waveney to aspire to, and achieve their full

potential, giving them the basis for a successful life as active members of their community.

Waveney District Council is interested in YOUR views on the adequacy of play provision and the needs of your children, young people and future generations. If you are interested in taking part please contact Jo Archer: [jo.archer@waveney.gov.uk](mailto:jo.archer@waveney.gov.uk) or call on 01502 523185.

# Tourism success story



Tourism is now worth in excess of £153 million to the Waveney

economy and supports 9.9% of total jobs in the area\* and with this in mind, the official launch of The Sunrise Coast Marketing Campaign 2007 took place in December.

Councillor Wendy Mawer, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration handed over 'The Sunrise Coast Holiday Handbook 2007' to Paul Thomas, Chairman of the Waveney Tourism Forum at Southwold Pier.

The launch event was well attended by Waveney Tourism Forum Management Advisory Group Members, Sunrise Coast Marketing Partners for 2007, along with councillors and officers from Waveney District Council.

The Sunrise Coast Holiday Handbook is the cornerstone of the Marketing Campaign and is the official tourism publication promoting the Lowestoft,

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Southwold and Southern Broads area. The Holiday Handbook has a print run of 60,000 copies, which will be distributed over the coming months to potential visitors to the area. New for 2007, 5,000 of the handbooks have been printed with a winter theme on the cover, which will be distributed towards the end of the campaign to aid in the promotion of a year-round destination.

Cllr Mawer said: "The 2007 campaign has been developed by the public and private sectors within the Waveney Tourism Forum to increase visitors to The Sunrise Coast. A 2006 research programme has shown that visitor and industry support for the Handbook is very positive with results identifying that 68% of people who received a Holiday Handbook intended to visit as a result and that 97% of people who have



booked their holiday to The Sunrise Coast will bring their Holiday Handbook with them. This is a valuable publication as part of a valuable campaign to boost the local economy."

The Holiday Handbook can also be downloaded in full on

[www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk](http://www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk).

\*Source: East of England Tourist Board, Volume & Value Study 2004.

## Cultural directory

Waveney DC is in the process of compiling a Cultural Directory of the area.

The directory will have sections on Arts, Sport, Tourism, Heritage, Events, Volunteer groups and more. It will provide a wealth of information for residents as well as visitors to the area and will be available in printed and electronic formats.

A number of officers from the Culture, Tourism and Sport Team have been working on the project and the directory is due to go to print in late winter. If anyone has any events, social groups, sports clubs they would like included please call 01502 523331 or email: [sunrisecoasttourism@waveney.gov.uk](mailto:sunrisecoasttourism@waveney.gov.uk).

## New appointment

Waveney District Council's brand new Cultural Strategy sets out an agenda for developing Sport, Art, Tourism, Leisure and Heritage over the next five years and one of the key objectives was the appointment of an officer to support the Arts and Heritage sector in Waveney.

By working in partnership with Arts East, WDC secured funding for this post in late 2006 and as a result now has appointed Andrew Kitchen as Service Manager for Arts and Heritage. Andrew will be spending the next few weeks meeting with appropriate groups, organisations and individuals, and beginning to formulate a long-term plan for the regeneration of Arts and Heritage in Waveney.

If you would like to speak with him Andrew can be contacted on 01502 523397 or email:

[Andrew.kitchen@waveney.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.kitchen@waveney.gov.uk).

# Seeking your views

Waveney District Council has been asking for YOUR views on the future of Waveney and would like to thank everyone who has taken the time to respond to the following recent public consultations:

**Seeking your views on land suggested for future development** This document sought your views on land already suggested for uses such as housing, employment, shopping and community facilities to meet the future needs of Waveney to 2021. All the sites suggested by developers, landowners, parish and town councils and other interested parties, including the Council, were published for you to comment on before the Council makes any decisions on the preferred sites.

Cllr Wendy Mawer, Portfolio Holder for Economic Regeneration said: "We received a huge response and would like to thank all those local residents who took the time to 'spread the word' and ensure that as many people as possible made their views known."

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All the comments will now be considered before the Council publishes the preferred sites for consultation this Autumn. As made clear in the documentation, many of the sites will NOT be needed and we envisage very few of them being carried forward to the next stage.

**Seeking your views on policies to help make decisions on planning applications** – this document sought your views on key issues affecting development in Waveney together with a range of solutions. e.g. affordable housing, renewable energy, housing density, car parking. A good response was received and your views will help the Council in drafting specific

policies for further consultation this Autumn.

**1st East Area Action Plan for the Lake Lothing and Outer Harbour area of Lowestoft**

– following on from the options consultation in 2006, this consultation sought your views on the preferred way forward for the Lake Lothing and outer harbour areas of Lowestoft. Again, a good response was received and the Council will now consider all your comments in

partnership with 1st East waterfront regeneration company and their consultants Halcrow, before further consultations (see page 8).

For further information on the Local Development Framework please visit [www.waveney.gov.uk](http://www.waveney.gov.uk) and [www.1steast.co.uk](http://www.1steast.co.uk).



# Open spaces

WDC continues to welcome your views on open spaces and is now staging a further consultation.

This time we would now like to hear what you have to say about allotments, cemeteries and churchyards, how well they meet the needs of the local community and to find out what changes people would like.

To complete an online questionnaire, please go to the consultations section on the council's homepage at [www.waveney.gov.uk](http://www.waveney.gov.uk). The consultation lasts from 5th March – 16th April 2007.

For a hard copy of the questionnaire, please contact 01502 523572 or write to Waveney District Council, OS Needs Assessment, Monckton Avenue, Lowestoft, NR32 3EQ.

# Flying high once more



Detailed planning for this year's Lowestoft Seafront Air Festival is well underway.

The hugely successful 10th Anniversary 2006 event attracted an estimated 420,000 people over the two days and generated £9.8 million to the local economy and planners hope that this year's extravaganza will be bigger and better than ever. Two fantastic days of entertainment, sponsored by Birds Eye, start at 10am when the fun fair, amusements and wide variety of trade stalls and exhibitors, that line the promenade and Royal Green, open for business. The RAF are increasing the size of their ground display and hope to bring a full size Hawk aircraft. There will also be static displays from the Army and Navy and the very popular 'Meet the Pilots Experience' will be back.

Plus there will be food outlets positioned along the Esplanade with a wide variety to satisfy everyone's taste and a beer tent on Royal Green. There will then be around 4 hours of flying displays during each afternoon, featuring both military and civil aircraft. Each evening when the flying is finished, Lowestoft Esplanade will come alive with music and entertainment.

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For the third year running, the responsibility for organising the festival is in the hands of Lowestoft Seafront Air Festival Ltd, formed by an independent and voluntary business support group working in partnership with Waveney District Council.

It costs a considerable amount of money to organise an air festival – around £325,000 including "in-kind" benefits – and, as previously, it needs the support from businesses, traders and the general public.

With the help of sponsorship, traders income and donations – visitors being invited to make a voluntary donation of £1 per adult – the 2006 festival made a small operating profit. The organisers

are very grateful to all businesses and the public who supported the Air Festival.

The company hopes that all the local and national businesses that supported the 2006 festival will again get behind this popular family attraction in 2007.

For details of how to support the Air Festival as a business sponsor or Corporate Friend, please contact Keith Moughton on 01502 523398.

Members of the public, as well as voluntarily donating £1 per adult at the event, can also show their support by becoming a Friend of the Air Festival. The annual membership subscription is just £10.

For further Air Festival information the website is:

[www.lowestoftairfestival.co.uk](http://www.lowestoftairfestival.co.uk)



### Become a Friend of the Air Festival & receive special offers from Hughes Electrical Ltd.

For just £10 minimum annual membership subscription, you and your family can become Friends of the Air Festival and for your valued support you will receive:

- A Friend of Lowestoft Air Festival certificate on joining
- Access to the Lowestoft Air Festival Website - with Exclusive "Friends" pages
- Entry into a draw to win a flight with Denny Dobson in his aerobatic Extra 300XS display aircraft
- Entry into monthly prize draw to win a selection of electrical goods from Hughes Electrical
- A Souvenir Programme \*
- Two exclusive Friend of the Air Festival Badges\*

(\*Both of these will be posted to you in July prior to the Air Festival)

#### Friend of Lowestoft Air Festival 2007

I would like to become a "Friend" and enclose my cheque for £10 (no cash please)  
Please make cheque payable to - Lowestoft Seafront Air Festival Ltd  
Please PRINT clearly

Surname (Mr/Mrs/Miss/Other) .....

Forename .....

Address .....

Postcode ..... Date .....

E-mail Address .....

Please return this completed form and your cheque for £10 to: Friends of Lowestoft Air Festival, 41 Tennyson Road, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 1PS.

# Happening in Waveney



As the summer season fast approaches Waveney can boast a vast and varied programme of events throughout the year!

This year sees the return of the award-winning Latitude festival as well as favourite such as the Beccles carnival, Gig in the Park, Powerboat racing at Oulton Broad (including the World Championships) the Southwold Amber hunt and the Lowestoft Seafront Airshow.

New for 2007 is the Honda Formula 4-stroke Powerboat Series. The event will see

over 40 boats take part in a race off Lowestoft seafront. The race series takes place at four other locations through the year including the Isle of Man, Tyneside and Plymouth attracting up to 40,000 visitors to each event.

The list below offers highlights from the many events due to take place on the Sunrise Coast. But there is so much more to enjoy! For further information

please contact Lowestoft or Southwold Tourist Information Centres or visit [www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk](http://www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk).

22nd April  
Halesworth to Southwold Annual Classic Vehicle Run

May – Sept  
Power Boat racing – Nicholas Everitt Park, Oulton Broad (Most Thursdays)

4/6th May  
Laser Sailing World Championships, Lowestoft Seafront

28th May  
Southwold Lions Spring bank Holiday Fete, Southwold Common

10th June  
Halesworth Lions Carnival Fete

16th June  
Lowestoft Seafayre, Lowestoft Fish Docks

24th June  
Halesworth Food, Drink & Craft Fair

7th –29th July  
Bungay Town Festival

12th July  
Powerboat Racing World Championships, Oulton Broad

12-15th July  
Latitude Festival – Henham Park

20-22nd July  
Eastern haze, Somerleyton Hall

21st July  
Beccles carnival

26/27th July  
Lowestoft Seafront Air festival

28th July  
Jazz on the green, Southwold Green

28/29th July  
Honda Formula 4-Stroke Powerboat Series, Lowestoft Beach

# Marina Theatre



Lowestoft's Marina Theatre has been at the cultural heart of the town for over 100 years.

This year's Spring season has been hailed the best ever with a host of top artistes, shows and attractions lined up. In addition the Marina will continue to present top movies on its giant cinema screen and with tickets for films priced at just £2.50 each, there is so much more to enjoy at Your West End In The East!

Highlights include entertainer Joe Longthorne making a welcome return to the Marina and, for one

week only from Monday 26th March, Willy Russell's Blood Brothers. During April the venue presents even more top class entertainment with Aled Jones performing in Lowestoft. Having released 16 albums, all of which went Platinum or gold and selling over 6 million albums worldwide, his appearance is expected to prove extremely popular.

Opera enthusiasts can look forward to a major production of Verdi's classic, Aida on

April 13th by the celebrated Chisinau National Opera and The Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, now in its third year of residency at the Marina presents its spring concert on Friday 20th April. Then the legendary Petula Clark appears in concert on Wednesday 25th April and rounding off the spring season in style is another major musical, the national tour of the Louis Jordan hit Five Guys Named Moe.

Thurs 22nd March at 7.30pm  
**JOE LONGTHORNE**

Fri 23rd March at 7.30pm  
**THE BIG BALLETT**

Sat 24th March at 7.30pm  
**CHARLIE LANDSBOROUGH**

Monday 26th to Sat 31st March  
Nightly at 7.30pm  
Matinees Wed 28th & Sat 31st at 2.30pm  
Willy Russell's  
**BLOOD BROTHERS**

Wed 4th April at 7.30pm  
**THE BEST OF ALED JONES**

Thurs 5th April at 2.30pm  
**THE MR MEN**

Sat 7th April at 2.30pm & 7.30pm  
**BROADWAY!**

Sun 8th April at 7.30pm  
**RUSSIAN COSSACK STATE DANCE COMPANY**

Fri 13th April  
Chisinau National Opera  
**AIDA**

Sat 14th April at 7.30pm  
**MAGIC OF MOWTOWN**

Sun 15th April at 7.30pm  
**THAT'LL BE THE DAY**

Mon 16th to Wed 18th April  
Nightly at 7.30pm  
**THE PLAY WHAT I WROTE**

Friday 20th April at 7.30pm  
**ROYAL PHILHARMONIC ORCHESTRA**  
Resident at the Marina Theatre  
**SPRING CONCERT**

Sun 22nd April at 7.30pm  
**THE BILLY FURY STORY**

Wed 25th April at 7.30pm  
**PETULA CLARK** in concert

Thurs 26th April at 7.30pm  
**FREDDIE STARR**

Fri 27th April at 7.30pm  
**PAM AYRES**

All of these top artistes and events in addition to great value movies on our giant cinema screen. For more information or to book any Marina movie, concert or show please call the box office on 01502 533200 or go to [www.marinateatre.co.uk](http://www.marinateatre.co.uk).

# How to get in touch

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