



NEWS FROM WAVENEY DISTRICT COUNCIL AUGUST 2006

in touch

W I T H W A V E N E Y

Flying the Flag

Lowestoft beaches get 'Blue Flag' status

Towns together!

Partnership goes from strength to strength

Regeneration game

Improving Lowestoft, improving life

Safer and stronger communities

Huge funding boost for local communities



Waveney District Council
Serving the Community



intouch

Welcome!

A very warm welcome to this latest edition of In Touch magazine. This publication is intended to provide a flavour of what we do and the services we provide for YOU, the people of Waveney.

As you will see, this Council is made up of many departments and people all dedicated to our communities. But this is only the tip of the iceberg! We are striving to make improvements in ALL areas and I hope that you will feel the benefit of our strenuous efforts.

Waveney is a very special place, deserving the best that a District Council can offer its residents. I hope you enjoy this edition of In Touch and that you will learn a little bit more about what we do and the role we play in the area.

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 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.

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Councillor Wendy Mawer with Sports Awards winners

Sports awards

Achievements in the sporting arena were honoured recently at the annual Waveney Sports Awards ceremony at Lowestoft Town Hall. Leading the honours were a sporting all-rounder and three talented swimmers, who have won numerous medals in the past year. They were among other sportsmen and women, juniors, veterans and volunteers who were honoured for their successes in 2005. Sponsored by The Journal and Juler Sports, the ninth annual Waveney Sports Awards produced another high calibre field of entrants.

Masters swimmer **Neil Howell** took the plaudits to lift the **Best Sportsman** trophy. With fellow swimmer **Laura Healey** named **Best Sportswoman**. Equally impressive in the swimming pool, teenager **Leanne Barnard** won the **Best Junior Sportswoman** award and Suffolk's U16 badminton champion **Michael Wood** lifted the **Best Junior Sportsman** award. There was more success for the popular Lowestoft **Kuk Sool Won** club as they lifted the **Best Team** award. And badminton coach **Phil Lowe** won the **Most Valuable Contribution**

to **Sport** award.

Having overcome potentially life-threatening injuries after being stabbed eight years ago, **Darren Lovell** has progressed to such a level that he's now Norwich City FC's Football in the Community (FITC) Disability Officer and was awarded the **Most Valuable Contribution to Disabled Sport**. The popular Waveney Gymnastics Club won the **Most Valuable Contribution to Schools Sport** award and the last award of the night - the **Long Service** award - fittingly went to **John Pitts**. Some 25 years ago he founded Pakefield Boys Football Club and 'thousands upon thousands of youngsters' have benefited from his commitment, dedication and involvement in youth football.

Cllr Wendy Mawer, as Deputy Leader, brought the evening to a close, saying: 'This is my third year of presenting prizes at the sports awards and it's one of my highlights of the year. It makes me feel very proud to be part of this evening as we are able to recognise that so many people do so much good in Waveney'.

How to get in touch

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Waveney District Council
Serving the Community



Flying the Flag

LOWESTOFT

Three of Waveney's beaches have been awarded Blue Flag status for the 2006 season for the fourth successive year.

Beaches at Lowestoft, North of Claremont Pier and South of Claremont Pier have been successful in retaining this prestigious award. And Southwold Beach (South of the pier) has also retained Blue Flag status for 2006.

The Blue Flag Campaign is an initiative which recognises clean, well-managed beaches that promote coastal

environmental care. ENCAMS European Blue Flag Awards recognise beaches throughout Europe, which fulfil strict criteria relating to both the water quality and the surrounding beach area. Councillor Wendy Mawer was delighted that Waveney's beaches have been recognised again.

"It's a recognition of how hard the whole Team at Waveney works to enhance the quality and enjoyability of our beach facilities. This award acknowledges what a great place Waveney is to visit and what great facilities Waveney residents have right on their doorstep."

A Lowestoft Blue Flag Launch Event was held on Tuesday 23rd May 2006 at the Lowestoft Lifeguard South



The Blue Flag presentation at Lowestoft

Station. These awards already add to the ENCAMS Resort Seaside Awards given to beaches at Lowestoft North of Claremont Pier, Lowestoft South of Claremont Pier and Southwold Pier. Beaches at Kessingland and Southwold Denes have also been awarded ENCAMS Rural Seaside Awards, bringing a total of five award winning beaches in the Waveney area.

It is estimated that Waveney

attracts nearly 4 million visitors per year and local research identified that over 55% of visitors to the area visited/intended to visit beaches during their stay, highlighting the importance that The Sunrise Coast Beaches have on Waveney's £153.8 million tourism economy.

For further information about the area head to:

www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk

SOUTHWOLD

The £6.5m coast protection scheme to provide higher standards of erosion and flood protection to Southwold and Reydon properties, and an improved beach at Southwold, is nearing substantial completion. Come and see the works in action!

The Southwold Coastal Frontage Scheme has been developed by a partnership of Waveney DC and the Environment Agency to provide higher standards of protection to some 740 properties against flood and erosion risks, and is funded by Defra grant aid.

Following the construction of



Work continues apace on Southwold beach

eight rock groynes to the north of the pier, eight timber groynes are now in place and the reconstruction of the promenade is just about complete. The beach recharge project also continues, involving the delivery by suction dredger of imported beach material from a licensed dredging site offshore from Felixstowe. Then there is the operation to remove the outward ends of the redundant

old groynes using a jack-up barge with a 76 tonne excavator on board. There is certainly plenty going on!

Around 270 tonnes of scrap steel from the old groynes has been recovered and sold to steel recyclers on behalf of the Council and Environment Agency. Also, a large number of old timber groyne piles and planks have been recovered ensuring that our communities will benefit not only from the

scheme itself but also from the recycling of old materials. A good job all round!

Cllr Wendy Mawer, Porfolio Holder for Regeneration and Environment, said: "We know that there has been some disruption but it will all be worth it in the end. This project will benefit Southwold for years to come."

For more information contact Paul Patterson on 01502 523 349.

Pooling resources

BECCLES Waveney District Council spent over £25,000 on new changing and shower facilities at Beccles outdoor pool in time for the Summer season.

The pool attracts local residents and visitors alike and Cllr Mark Bee believes that the investment is money well spent.

"At this time of year Beccles pool is a wonderful place to visit, but it was clear that work needed to be done to bring it up to the standards both we and the public would expect. We have built new disabled changing facilities as well as installing brand new showers and I am sure that those who use the pool regularly will be pleased with the upgrade."

The pool will also be open for two weeks longer this summer after initial delays to opening caused by problems with the heating system. Waveney's heating contractors worked around the clock, fitting new boilers after faults were found in the original set - ensuring the pool could be heated to the optimum temperature of 26 to 30 degrees centigrade. The pool will stay open until Saturday September 17th.

"The weather is often excellent in September and this at least means that the length of the season will be unaffected and the people of Beccles can make the most of the facilities," Cllr Bee said.

For pool times and more information call: 01502 713297.



Facelift for Beccles Town Hall.

Benefiting Beccles

BECCLES The completion of improvements to Beccles Town Hall not only benefit residents, they also help to keep a promise made by the Town Council 220 years ago!

On 11th May 1785 Councillors decided that "the building of a public room as an Assembly room and a Playhouse would be conducive to the benefit, advantage and prosperity of the town..." and Waveney District Council says "long may that continue!"

The current renovations

began in 2003 and in the first phase, the exterior was repaired and re-decorated. Then a second phase of work commenced to create male and female dressing rooms and more toilet facilities within the basement which saw a significant amount of asbestos removed by specialist contractors.

With costs rising, work was temporarily halted but eventually the District Council was given the go-ahead for further funding and improvements which were completed at the end of May 2006.

"It is always a challenge working with old buildings such as this, because you never fully know what

problems will be uncovered until the work is underway," said Cllr Stephen Ardley, Portfolio Holder for Operations and Facilities. "However, this only makes the satisfaction all the greater once work has been completed and, as in this case, much needed facilities are in use.

"Whilst it has been possible to keep the hall open for the duration of these works, the Council would like to take this opportunity to thank the users of the Hall for their patience whilst the works were undertaken. It is anticipated that visitors and user groups of the Public Hall will appreciate and fully enjoy the improved facilities for many years."

A tidy effort

WAVENEY

Waveney's Environment Support Officers are out and about this summer on the streets, in the parks and on the beaches encouraging us to take more care of our environment.

Their role encompasses a wide range of environmental issues, including dog fouling, littering, fly-posting, graffiti and fly-tipping. They will also help tackle the growing problem of congestion and nuisance caused by car sales in lay-bys and repairs on the highway.

Cllr Ken Sale, Waveney's Portfolio Holder for the Environment said; "We all know how disheartening and frustrating it is to live with the

consequences of the anti-social behaviour of a tiny minority. Our objective therefore is to try to persuade them to take more care of our surroundings. The Environment Support Officers will be doing this through a combination of education and a high-profile presence in selected areas to deter this sort of behaviour."

Nevertheless, Cllr Sale is keen to point out that the ESOs will also follow up 'education' with 'enforcement action' when required. "We know that our message will need pressing home very firmly in some cases, and our Environment Support Officers are equipped with the legal powers to achieve this. It includes the right to issue Fixed Penalty Notices with fines of up to £80 for dog fouling, littering and other offences".

So although the ESOs are concentrating on education and promotion to begin with,

Waveney will begin issuing fixed penalty notices for dog fouling and littering in August. Further extensions and developments in the scheme will be publicised in due course through public notices

in the local papers, the Council's website and other media.

Full details of the fixed penalty notice scheme can be found at www.waveney.gov.uk.

Environment Support Officers Hayley Darlaston, Mark Seaman and Peter Middleton



Caravan consideration

LOWESTOFT
Waveney District Council has been considering YOUR opinions on the future of the North Denes Caravan Site.

The Council has proposed a progressive plan that would see the northern end converted to open space and the southern end redeveloped as a modern, privately-owned static and touring caravan and camping site.

Nevertheless, Waveney has always believed it is vitally important for interested parties to have their say before any plans can be finalised and copies of the Council's Planning and Use vision for the site, known as the 'Note on Implementation, have been distributed'.

Cllr Stephen Ardley, Portfolio Holder for Operations and Facilities, hopes that the very

best outcome for the site can now be achieved.

"Our vision for the site has been subject to a full six-week consultation giving people plenty of time to have their say and the views that have been submitted really will lay the foundations for the future of North Denes. The Council simply doesn't have the capital to modernise the site to today's expected standards and by transferring its operation to experienced professionals we hope to safeguard the future of North Denes.

"If the plans are approved by Members we believe this will lead to the creation of an attractive, safe and welcoming environment for residents and visitors alike. But it is vital to hear from a wide range of people to be sure that all views and opinions are considered before the final decision is made."

For further information go to www.waveney.gov.uk/Leisure/Caravan+and+Camping and click on 'The future of Waveney's campsites'.

Towns together!

WAVENEY The Rural Communities Partnership goes from strength to strength! The RCP is developing initiatives to provide services and help improve facilities in each rural town as well creating joint projects for the combined benefit of Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Southwold.

The RCP is a great example of partnership working at its best and is supported and funded by, amongst others, the four Town Councils, Waveney District Council and the Waveney Community Forum, (WCF).

HALESWORTH One successful community project in Halesworth is the Groovy Gap Dance Group which was set up to provide lunch hour dance and fitness sessions for young parents. The group wanted to help young mums and dads enjoy a break from their little ones, to incorporate some kind of health benefit and provide a social group in a nice environment. Part of the scheme provides childcare facilities and the dance class takes place for one hour every Tuesday at the New Cut Arts Centre in Halesworth. The RCP officer helped the group to work up a constitution and



Halesworth Town Market

set up a committee. He also provided assistance with completing the 'Awards for All' application for the £5,000 of funding required to pay for

running costs for one year. This included the hiring of the dance studio / instructor and childcare facilities.

BUNGAY The Bungay Youth Partnership, chaired by Geoff Young, identified that the 9 to 13 year olds in the area had no youth club facilities in Bungay. Although there was a successful Senior Club running from the Community Education Youth Centre the junior club had shut down two years ago. Bungay Youth Partnership and the Rural Development Project Officer put together a funding application to the Local Network Fund for £7,000 to provide a really active youth club for juniors in Bungay one night per week. This application was recently approved.

A Four Towns Initiative!

The Waveney Rural Communities Website was set up at the request of the four towns linking with the One Voice Suffolk website to provide a more detailed web site covering all community and voluntary services as well as sports and leisure activities. This is not a commercial web site and is run by volunteers to help maintain this service. The four towns are linked to each other on the site so the user can jump between each town. The hope is that youth web sites will also be linked into this site eventually. The Rural Development Partnership Officer worked in partnership with the four towns, community and voluntary groups to secure the funding and put together the new website.

**Want to know more?
Call the Waveney
Community Forum on
01502 582201.**

Planning for a brighter future

WAVENEY Waveney District Council's Executive has approved a new "High Level Improvement Plan" which contains a number of clear objectives to help improve our service to you, the residents of Waveney.

The Plan lists the key things that the Council needs to do to improve and focuses on priorities, our capacity to

deliver services, our role as a community leader and lays down specific targets for us to achieve.

Cllr Colin Law, Portfolio Holder for Corporate Governance, said: "We have received very positive comments from our external auditors about the new Plan. They consider it makes realistic statements about our challenges and contains good plans which acknowledge the importance of knowing the community's needs."

The full version of the Plan, which will be refreshed every six months, can be viewed on the Council's website, www.waveney.gov.uk



We have included two surveys which we would like you to complete - one relating to the Community Strategy or 'plan' for the area involving key partners such as the Police and Suffolk County Council, and the other focusing specifically on OUR service to YOU.

You can either pull out these pages and drop them in or post them back to the Council offices, alternatively if you wish, you can complete the surveys online. Full details are on page 10.

Your views are vital to us.
Please help us to help you!

Over the next four pages we're going to tell you about our plans for Waveney and our ambitions for the future provision of Council Services. And we want YOU to have your say!

Have your say!

So what exactly is the Community Strategy?

In 2002, the District Council co-ordinated the production of the first Community Strategy or plan for the area. The strategy explains how we can work closely together on the key things that make up 'quality of life' for the community and helps public service bodies such as the Police, Primary Care Trust and Suffolk County Council as well as the business sector, voluntary organisations, community groups and individuals to work more closely together on the key things that go to make up 'quality of life'. Using their experience and knowledge of the area, the partners pooled information about needs and aspirations, their activities and their plans for the future. Before arriving at a vision for the area, called the **Community Strategy!**

A fresh look

Over the last few years an organisation called the Local

Strategic Partnership has been developing action plans to achieve that vision, however, much has changed since the production of the original Community Strategy. Therefore we need to check out that the vision still reflects the needs and aspirations of everyone who lives and works in Waveney and for this reason, the Local Strategic Partnership has committed to undertaking a series of consultation activities throughout 2006, to get YOUR views on how we can refresh this vision to meet your needs TODAY.

The District Council

Waveney District Council is a key player in the Local Strategic Partnership. Since the Community Strategy outlines the hopes and aspirations for the community, it's important that the District Council's priorities match these. For this reason, we would also like to ask you about the priorities that the Council should focus on.

What have you said so far?

Based on the consultation we have done so far, we've put together a draft of the Community Strategy, which outlines a proposed new vision for the area. We have used some of the feedback you gave us in the 'Local Development Framework' consultation to identify our draft set of new priorities in the Community Strategy. These are listed below.

What's next?

This is where you come in! Although we now have a sense of what your priorities look like, we will not be able to address them all at once, so we would like to ask you to rank them in order of importance to you. What's the most important and what comes first?

Key Community Strategy Issues

These are the key issues and priorities you have told us about. We now need to narrow these down to ensure that we focus on the most

important things first:

Step 1

Take a look at each of the following seven priority areas: Environment, Community Safety, Health, Housing, Regeneration, Information & Customer Services and Education.

Within each one there are key issues relating to the priority areas - and this is what we want you to rank. So, starting with 'ENVIRONMENT', if you believe that 'Tackling Climate change' is most important to you - give it a score of '1', then give the next most important the score '2' and so on until you have numbered them all.

Then do the same with COMMUNITY SAFETY, then HEALTH and so on!

Please start your priority list overleaf.



Environment

- Redevelopment of previously used sites
- Tackling climate change
- Combating the risk of flooding
- Tackling coastal erosion
- Minimising the amount of waste
- Dealing with rising levels of traffic
- Protecting biodiversity, landscape and built heritage

Community Safety

- Meeting the needs of young people
- Visible police presence
- Tackling car crime
- Tackling anti-social behaviour
- Dealing with use of illegal drugs
- Combating the impact of alcohol consumption
- Reducing the fear of crime
- Combating domestic violence
- Combating racial harassment

Health

- Encouraging healthier lifestyles
- Improve healthcare facilities, particularly for ageing population
- Tackling child and adult obesity
- Reducing the prevalence of heart disease
- Reducing teenage pregnancies
- Promoting mental health and well-being
- Get more people more active, more often
- Reducing smoking

Housing

- Providing affordable housing
- Increasing the range and types of housing development

Regeneration

- Improving the perception of Waveney
- Increasing average earnings
- Supporting and encouraging economic growth
- Developing all year round tourism
- Increasing the vitality and viability of town centres
- Provide well paid and skilled jobs
- Provide infrastructure to support development
- Encourage young people to remain in the area
- Tackling unemployment
- Increasing business start ups
- Making land available for business use
- Developing new industries

Information and Customer Services

- Increase access to services in rural areas
- Increase provision of public transport
- Continue to focus on the rural areas as well as the towns
- Providing services and facilities within new developments

Education

- Improve education
- Improve educational facilities
- Improve teaching
- Improve discipline
- Increase levels of GCSE attainment
- Increase adult literacy and numeracy
- Improve skills in line with local business needs

Step 2

Finally in this section we need you to rank the priority areas themselves. Is Health most important to you? How about Education? Below, score the most important as number '1', then '2' and so on to the least important which should be ranked '7'.

- ENVIRONMENT
- COMMUNITY SAFETY
- HEALTH
- HOUSING
- REGENERATION
- INFORMATION & CUSTOMER SERVICES
- EDUCATION

Now, we would be really grateful if you would read on

because now we need to focus on those priorities within the Community Strategy which the District Council has a specific responsibility to deliver. In short, what WE do for YOU!

So how does Waveney District Council fit in?

It is the Council's responsibility to listen and react to the community's views on priorities, and ensure that priorities and services are delivered to a required standard. This doesn't mean that the Council provides everything itself, but must work in partnership to ensure services are provided as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Council must ensure that its own priorities are driven by the needs and aspirations in the Community



Strategy, and to ensure it supports other partners in delivering THEIR priorities. For example, how can the District Council support the newly formed Waveney and Great Yarmouth Primary Care Trust in reducing adult and childhood obesity?

Back in 2002, you gave us the following views as part of the 'Listening To You' survey. From a list of five Waveney District Council services, people were asked to identify the most important ones. The top five were:

Refuse collection and recycling

Highways and footpath maintenance

Street Cleaning

Creating and sustaining job opportunities

Public conveniences

Step 3

So now, the Council has drafted a revised 'Strategic Direction' or business plan, to help us to prioritise our resources and capacity. We would like YOU to tell us if the priorities that we should focus on in the next few years look correct, and how important you think they are.

We have drafted these priority outcomes to achieve our vision of **a safe, clean and prosperous environment for our communities** and as before, please rank the issues in each key area with '1' being the most important to you, right through to the least important.

Environment

- Protecting the coast
- Promoting good design, conservation and landscape advice
- Providing a building control service
- Dealing with planning applications and enforcement
- Protecting the environment (noise, air and land pollution)
- Food safety and port health
- Dealing with high hedges
- Land drainage
- Providing a planning policy framework
- Recycling
- Waste management
- Beach and seafront management
- Energy conservation
- Grounds management - parks, allotments and open spaces
- Street cleaning
- Land charges

continued overleaf



Community Safety

- Dealing with abandoned vehicles
- Providing a licensing service
- Street wardens
- CCTV

Regeneration

- Arts and culture development
- Economic development (urban and rural)
- Festivals and events
- Heritage and museums
- Industrial development
- Increasing the viability and vitality of our towns
- Promoting regeneration initiatives
- Promoting tourism
- Providing tourist information
- Working with First East
- Provision of car parks
- Provision of markets
- Provision of yacht stations and harbours
- Community regeneration
- Provision of caravan sites

Information and Access

- Promoting access to the countryside
- Providing footpaths and Rights of Way
- Traveller liaison
- Provision of concessionary fares
- Improving accessibility of services
- Communication to the public and the press
- Consultation with the community

Health

- Sports development
- Provision of leisure centres
- Provision of facilities for young children and parents
e.g. Sure Start
- Provision of public conveniences
- Leisure concessions
- Cemeteries

Housing

- Dealing with houses in multiple occupation
- Providing improvement grants
- Estate caretakers
- Provision of centre for independent living
- Homelessness



- Housing advice
- Provision of affordable housing
- Provision of housing benefits
- Services for travellers
- Provision of temporary accommodation
- Provision of council housing
- Improving housing estates
- Provision of sheltered housing

Many thanks for your time. Your views are valuable and we are extremely grateful. We will LISTEN to what you say!

Please carefully remove these pages from your magazine and post them to:

Phil Harris
Waveney District Council
Town Hall
Lowestoft
NR32 1HS

or return them to any Waveney District Council office by no later than **August 31st**. You can use the local offices in Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth, or Southwold and the Town Hall on the High Street or the Clapham Road offices in the centre of Lowestoft.

This consultation is also available to complete on-line at: www.waveney.gov.uk/consultations/haveyoursay

Regeneration game

LOWESTOFT

Making Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth a better place to live, work and visit through improvements to transport are the top priorities for the public say the results of a recent consultation by urban regeneration company 1st East.

With almost 1,000 responses to the regeneration proposals, 1st East also has a clearer idea of what the public would like to see included in its masterplan to improve quality of life in both towns. A common theme was the need to reduce traffic

congestion with a third river crossing seen as key to both towns, whilst in Lowestoft improvements to the outer harbour, reconfiguring the area around the Railway Station and

changes to the area around the South Quay of Lake Lothing were popular options.

For more information call 01493 334455 or head to: www.1steast.co.uk



Proposed regeneration plan

Campus progress

WAVENEY

Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council and CEFAS are entering the next important stage of the Waveney Campus project, which intends to establish a joint, state of the art office complex for the three organisations.

It is expected that the proposed site of the project will be located within the newly created boundary of the 1st East Waterfront Regeneration Company and that this project will prove to be a hugely important catalysts for regeneration, providing a very sound basis for the sustainable future of the local economy.

The project passed a critical approval stage in June when Cefas' ministerial approval was announced. This followed the unanimous support given by the two Councils to the project in May,

epitomised by the view of Cllr Wendy Mawer who is an elected representative at both District and County level.

"We recognise the importance this venture - not only in providing more cost-effective and efficient buildings to work from but, importantly, in providing a real confidence boost to the local economy and a major investment sign to external inward investors.

In addition to the main building in Lowestoft, Waveney District Council and Suffolk County Council are also looking for joint customer

service facilities in Lowestoft, along with the market towns of Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Southwold. This will provide a comprehensive service offer to all parts of the district so that the people of Waveney will be able to access all Council services in one place, and as close to where they live as possible. This work is being carried out in tandem with the Waveney Campus Project and an announcement will be made soon about the location of Waveney's first joint service outlet.

Double decker delight!

FOUR TOWNS

A DOUBLE-DECKER bus designed to provide a “community/youth centre on wheels” to people living in rural areas, was launched in the Four Market Towns, Beccles, Bungay, Halesworth and Southwold recently.

This superb bus is fully equipped with training areas complete with laptop computers, providing internet access, a 42” plasma TV with DVD, meeting area, private meeting room, air conditioning and hot and cold refreshments. The bus is also fully compliant with disabled

access and safety legislation.

After touring the four towns, Leader of Halesworth Town Council and Chair of the Bus steering group Alan Holzer thanked all those who had been part of the project.

It only took the Four Towns Bus Project six months to secure its initial funding, with the support of Waveney District Council officers, from the Single Regeneration Budget, managed by Suffolk County Council. This money was then added to funds donated by Waveney Crime Reduction Partnership, the Waveney Drug Action Team and the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund and used to purchase an old London double-decker to be refurbished and provide a link between the four communities.

Christine Pinsent, from the Bus Steering Group said “The Bus is for all the community, young and old. It will be open through the day and is available for a wide range of groups from Waveney Women’s Aid to the CAB, from Youth Groups to

Community/youth centre on wheels.



Connections, but primarily for groups and organisations that haven’t got facilities in the towns and villages and wish to ensure that the rural communities can access their services.”

Groups and services taking part in the project include NORCAS, Suffolk Association of Voluntary Organisations, Waveney Domestic Violence

Forum, Partnerships with Older People, Waveney Women’s Health Information Centre, Action for Families and youth clubs and forums from the four market towns and surrounding areas.

For more information about the bus and its services, call Matt Deal, Four Towns Community Bus Co-ordinator on 07877 898917.

Oakwood is OK



Oakwood Community Field before and after.



LOWESTOFT

The regeneration of a public open space in South Lowestoft has been completed with the installation of the community mosaic using designs by the children at Whitton Green Primary School.

The once neglected and underused Oakwood Community Field, in Whitton, South Lowestoft has been transformed into an attractive community garden with a large emphasis on attracting wildlife to the area.

The project received funding from the Countryside Agency, Doorstep Greens Programme, (Big Lottery),

Living Spaces, (Office of the Deputy Prime Minister), Suffolk County Council and Waveney District Council. It has been developed by Whitton Tenants’ & Residents’ Association in partnership with Whitton Life, Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council, Neighbourhood Watch and Suffolk Police. Cllr Bruce Provan, Portfolio Manager for Housing & Social Inclusion, believes the project sets a fantastic example for others.

“A group of committed and determined people have brought about a positive change to the area they live, for the benefit of the whole community, I would urge anyone with a similar vision to take that step to seeing their ideas become a reality”.

Green delight

WAVENEY Waveney District Councillor Ken Sale joined Portfolio Manager Martin Plane and members of the Council's waste management team to show off a recent award that recognised their contribution to tackling the county's growing waste problem.

Suffolk's waste authorities were jointly awarded Beacon Status by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister (ODPM) and Waveney is particularly proud of its achievements in waste and recycling.

"The award of Beacon Status reflects the hard work undertaken by our waste and recycling teams. Waveney is genuinely delighted that we are being recognised," Cllr Sale said.

Beacon status is awarded by the ODPM to authorities who have shown excellence and innovation and a commitment to sharing their expertise with others. By pooling resources and the vast experience of individual



Cllr Ken Sale with pupils at Grove Primary School

councils, Suffolk has significantly improved the diversion of waste from landfill to recycling and composting.

In making the award, it was recognised that a wide range of communications have been used to ensure that the community have been fully engaged with the waste and recycling strategy. Funding was also secured for a six month door-stepping campaign covering 100,000 households, and recycling and waste education officers are very active in attending all schools. A "Perfect Bin" scheme has been run at Bungay Middle School and Elm Tree Primary School, and Waste Minimisation Projects have run at Roman Hill Primary, Holton St. Peter Primary, Bungay High and Halesworth High Schools.

LOWESTOFT Waveney District Council are proud to award Grove Primary School the status of 'best recycling school' in the region. The Staff and children have recycled almost TWO tonnes of material since they joined the scheme last year - a massive 95% of their Waste!

On joining Waveney's 'Blue Bin' recycling scheme, Grove recognised that almost all their waste was recyclable and boldly opted to swap almost all their black waste bins for Blue recycling bins. This decision, backed up by a lot of hard work, brought real dividends and earned praise from the Council.

"We are all very pleased that a school in Waveney has taken on the challenge of recycling and reducing their waste with such enthusiasm,"

said Cllr Ken Sale, Portfolio Holder for the Built Environment. "We congratulate all the children who have worked hard to sort the recyclables, and all the staff who have taken the time to understand what the scheme entails."

In recognition of their achievement Grove Primary School was presented with a composter to further aid their green ambitions. This will not only reduce waste going to landfill but also allow the school to get value from their waste, both through composting and education. Congratulations again, Grove Primary School!

Other high achievers in Waveney are St. Margaret's Primary in Lowestoft at 75%, followed by The Ashley School, Lowestoft (68%), Bungay Middle & Roman Hill Primary in Lowestoft both on 63%, and Holton St. Peter Primary School on 55%. Well done to these, and all of those schools, currently some 44 (77%) who have opted to join the Schools' Recycling Initiative, keep up the good work.

Waveney's award winning waste management team



Waveney Sunrise Scheme

WAVENEY

£11.5m has now been spent on the Scheme, the largest regeneration programme the region has seen, and it is due for completion in June 2007.

Programmes to improve London Road North from Artillery Way to Suffolk Road, the Britten Centre market stalls, Station Square and Bevan Street East are all

complete and traffic calming measures in south Lowestoft are progressing well.

Phase one of the Royal Plain scheme, which includes the fountains (pictured, front cover), was opened to the public in June 05 and works to extend the East Point Pavilion are underway with completion due in October.

Looking ahead, detailed designs for a two-way gyratory loop around the main London Road North shopping precinct are almost complete. The plans include restricting traffic in Gordon Road to public transport, disabled drivers, permit holders and

deliveries (4pm to 10am), converting Waveney Road and Katwijk Way to two-way and closing Suffolk Road between Station Square and Bon Marche.

In South Lowestoft the opening of the South Lowestoft Relief Road in June has allowed for northbound traffic to be diverted away from London Road South and works are progressing well on the Clifton Road car park which will be completed during the summer.

Further details can be found at: www.waveney sunrise.org.uk

together with links to our partners and associated projects.

Cllr Wendy Mawer, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, said: "A big thank you to the public for their patience while these works are undertaken. They will genuinely enhance the area for residents and visitors alike."



LOWESTOFT

A new £6.4 million centre aimed at boosting the region's Offshore Renewable Energy Industries has a new name and a new Development Director.

The centre, which will be built at Ness Point in Lowestoft is to be called OrbisEnergy and work to build it will get underway this summer.

The total cost of the project is £6.392m and is being led by Suffolk County Council (SCC) and the East of England Development Agency (EEDA) in partnership with Waveney District Council. EEDA are the main funders with contributions from SCC and Waveney. Cllr Wendy Mawer, Portfolio Holder for

OrbisEnergy takes shape

Regeneration, is delighted that the project is off and running.

"This project is the culmination of over five years

work to establish a Centre of Excellence for Offshore Renewables in Lowestoft. The project has relied heavily on a very strong partnership

OrbisEnergy Centre



between Waveney District Council, Suffolk County Council, EEDA, the Government Office of the East and Renewables East and will have immense benefits for companies in the region as well as the region as a whole. We are delighted that Steve Clarke has been appointed Development Director, bringing experience, vigour and enthusiasm to the project."

Mr Clarke will be responsible for developing and realising the region's opportunity in and around offshore wind, wave and tidal. He will focus on attracting companies into the OrbisEnergy facility which is scheduled to open at the end of 2007.

OrbisEnergy will be a central point for companies working in the renewables industry and is intended to be a flagship development for the regeneration of Lowestoft.

Waveney District has been allocated £1,599,600 over 4 years from the Government programme 'Safer and Stronger Communities Fund' (SSCF).

The objective is to improve the quality of life for people living in disadvantaged neighbourhoods and to ensure that service providers are more responsive to neighbourhood needs and improve their delivery.

The Waveney Local Strategic Partnership has selected parts of Harbour, Normanston, St Margaret's, Kirkley and Whitton wards for the funding. This represents a population of about 13,500 and the funding will be used to improve people's lives by reducing educational underachievement, offending, transforming neighbourhoods through reconnecting them with housing and job markets



Safer and stronger communities

where this is possible and empowering local people by involving them in local decision making to foster community spirit and cohesion.

There has been wide

consultation with local people who live in the area, carried out in Partnership with the Fair Share Trust (Big Map), to identify the problems and services that they would like to see improved in their

neighbourhood as part of this funding.

For further information please call our Community Development Officers: Lowestoft 01502 523186, rural areas 01502 523183.

Homelessness prevention

Homelessness prevention is at the heart of Waveney District Council's Housing Strategy and a number of programmes have been established to achieve this.

Councillor Bruce Provan, Portfolio Holder for Housing & Social Inclusion said: "The Council is facing an extremely busy year in this area but is

determined to reduce the need for temporary accommodation in the Waveney area."

These programmes include a Homefinders Scheme which enables families to secure accommodation in the private sector and assistance for people to stay in their current accommodation through the use of the Homelessness Prevention Fund.

Waveney is also working with Private Developers and Registered Social Landlords to increase the amount of shared equity/shared ownership schemes for people who can't quite afford

to get a step on the property ladder.

Waveney has a close working relationship with the Citizens Advice Bureau and tenancy support providers through the Council's Tenancy Sustainment Officer and we continue to work with Sub-Regional and Regional Partners to maximise the supply of Social and private Sector Housing.

Waveney is also currently exploring ideas such as the development of respite housing/crash pads as an alternative to the use of Bed & Breakfast for 16 to 17 year olds. There will also be a

review of the Council's Allocation Scheme with a view to introducing a Choice Based Lettings Scheme, which will be a transparent and hopefully more effective way of allocating social housing. Service users as well as service providers can then make more informed decisions about the pros and cons of each housing option.

Meanwhile a 'Sanctuary Scheme' is being explored to enable people who may ordinarily flee domestic violence to stay in their own homes.

Information on general housing matters and advice relating to housing issues in Waveney can be obtained by: telephoning 01502 523141 or 01502 523175.



Culture in Waveney

WAVENEY Waveney District Council has spent a year consulting with the public to provide a direction for the development of cultural activities in the region.

On 13th April 2006 a Cultural Strategy for Waveney was adopted by Full Council. Cultural activities produce considerable benefits to the community, whether enjoyed directly through participation or on the periphery as an observer. Cultural activities not only enrich the lives of those who participate, but also contribute to the long-term ambitions of the district, the quality of life is improved; social exclusion is overcome; the district is regenerated; community development is enhanced and all participants are party to lifelong learning.

Waveney offers some of the most prestigious beaches and waterways in the country. In addition, the district is home to a renowned maritime heritage, a distinctive history and an abundance of countryside, wildlife and nature. It has a developing Arts cluster, numerous sports and leisure clubs, many

museums and attracts almost four million visitors per year.

The strategy covers a huge range of cultural activities in the District from media, museums and artefacts to sports events, parks, open spaces and Children's playgrounds establishing the value of shared memories and experiences and the diversity of our heritage.

Reflecting on the new document, Cllr Wendy Mawer said: "Long in need, deep in consultation, and a living document which demonstrates the great diversity of Waveney and all it has to offer for its residents, the County and the rest of the UK".

For a copy of the cultural strategy please visit www.waveney.gov.uk/downloads or telephone 01502 523334.

What's on!

A taste of events in and around
The Sunrise Coast this Summer!

AUGUST

Friday 4 to Sunday 6 August
Gig in the Park, Halesworth

Sunday 6 August - 10am to 4pm
Model Boat Regatta
Kensington Gardens, Lowestoft.

Sunday 6 August
Emergency Services Open Day
Nicholas Everitt Park, Oulton Broad

Monday 7 to Friday 11
Summer Soccer School
5 day soccer school 10am to 3pm,
Poplars Primary School, Lowestoft
£55 per week. Contact David
Harrison-Jones 01502 519944

Thursday 10 August - 5.30pm
Power Boat Racing
Nicholas Everitt Park, Oulton Broad

Thursday 10 August - 12 noon
K-Syl-R Roadshow Wild Wild West Day
Sparrow's Nest Gardens, Lowestoft.
Contact: 01502 514402

Sunday 13 August - 2pm
26th British Open Crabbing Championship
Walberswick - Registration 1pm,
Competition starts 2pm. Contact:
01502 722359 or go online at:
www.walberswick.ws/crabbing/index.php

Sunday 13 August
Lowestoft Carnival Procession
through the town. Contact: 01502
523398

Mon 14 to Thur 17 August - Monday
to Wednesday 10am to 1pm,
Thursday 10am to 4pm
Summer School Workshop (Polka Dot Arts)
at the Marina Theatre, Lowestoft.
Contact: 01502 533200

Monday 14 to Friday 18 August
Summer Soccer School
5 day soccer school 10-3pm,
Kessingland, £55 per week. Contact
David Harrison-Jones 01502 519944

Monday 14 to Saturday 19 August
54th Lowestoft & East Suffolk Junior Tennis Tournament
Normanston Park, Lowestoft.
Contact 01502 523010

Thursday 24 August
Last Children's Day + BLAZE Dance Team
Sparrow's Nest Gardens, Lowestoft -
Contact: 01502 514402

Sunday 27 August - 12noon
Music in the Park
Sparrow's Nest Gardens, Lowestoft -
Contact: 01502 514402

Sunday 27 August
Entertainment Funday
Royal Green, Lowestoft

Monday 28 August - 12noon
Last Gig in the Park Bank Holiday Monday
Sparrows Nest Gardens, Lowestoft -
anything goes, it could be you on
stage! Contact: 01502 514402

The information listed is correct at
time of going to print. Please check
the latest information before travelling.

A full list of events can be
found by going online at:
www.visit-sunrisecoast.co.uk



Lowestoft's superbly restored Marina Theatre has been at the cultural heart of the town for over one hundred years.

Situated just off the town's main shopping precinct, the venue regularly plays host to some of the leading names from the world of

showbusiness as well as hosting major touring theatre productions, ballet and opera companies. In 2005, the Marina became the East Anglian residence of the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra, which presents a regular series of concerts throughout the year.

With one of the largest cinema screens for miles around, the Marina also

presents the very best in film entertainment and with tickets priced at just £2.50 each, has one of the lowest prices of admission in the UK.

For more information or to book seats for any Marina Movie, Concert or Show, please call the box office on 01502 533200 or check out our website at www.marinatheatre.co.uk