

**Welcome to our Annual Ward report and update of what has been going on in the last year. Below is just a few of the items, recent news and some reminders for you. (As previously, planning applications/referrals etc keep us very busy. Please do continue to get in touch if we can help you in any way.**

**We've had a busy year with our ECB allocations (budget spent) please don't forget to get in touch if you have a project that we can help with. We also have the Exemplar grant system which up to £10,000.00 can be applied for. More details and information on both of the grants is available on our website or get please get in touch with one of us.**

**The weather was very cold with snow and ice. We'd like to thank all those people that helped to free people stuck in their vehicles and checked on neighbours. Let's hope this week will be as warm as they promise.**

**Don't forget that you can keep up to date on all of SCDC news via our website, facebook or twitter pages. <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk>**

**Can we also take this opportunity to thank you all for your continued support and care for the community.**

**TJ & Maureen.**

### **East Suffolk gets the go ahead**

The Rt Hon Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government agreed to the creation of a new 'super district council' for east Suffolk.

In a written statement, the Secretary of State said:

"Having carefully considered all the representations I have received and all the relevant information available to me, I am today announcing that I have decided to implement, subject to Parliamentary approval, both proposals – that is to merge Suffolk Coastal and Waveney district councils to become a new single district council named East Suffolk."

Mr Javid has also confirmed the merger of Forest Heath District Council and St Edmundsbury Borough Council to become a new single district council named West Suffolk.

Welcoming the news, the Leaders of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council, Cllrs Ray Herring and Mark Bee, said in a joint statement:

"This is a truly momentous decision for us and for the people of east Suffolk. Although this announcement is a national first, for us in east Suffolk it is the next logical step on a decade-long journey. We are used to breaking new ground, as we have been finding innovative ways to cut costs and manage our business since Suffolk Coastal and Waveney started working in partnership 10 years ago."

“We have already made over £18million in efficiency savings and halved our joint workforce, while still investing in our communities. The creation of an East Suffolk Council will enable us to build on this decade of co-operation to give greater value for money, while continuing to improve service delivery.”

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils both voted to approve the proposal to create a brand new ‘super district’ council, delivering services to communities in the east of the county, in January 2017. A business case was then submitted to the Department of Communities and Local Government in February 2017.

In November, 2017, the Secretary of State for Communities & Local Government issued a written statement to the House of Commons confirming that he is ‘minded to’ support the proposals of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils to create a new single authority for the area.

At the same time, he has announced there would be a period of time, running until 8 January 2018, during which those interested could make further representation to him, including making any suggested modifications to the proposals. He has now considered all the comments he received and decided to officially back the plan, which will now be subject to Parliamentary approval.

This is the first time that the Secretary of State has given his backing to such a plan and now gives the councils the go ahead to proceed with getting everything in place to create the a new council by May 2019.

“We have a proud record of achieving success through innovative partnership working between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council. We are glad that the Secretary of State has recognised this in agreeing the creation of this new ‘super district’ for east Suffolk,”

said Cllrs Herring and Bee,

“We need to evolve, if we are to successfully address the shared opportunities and challenges that both councils face. There have been significant reductions in Central Government funding for councils, but we need to be able to drive and invest in growth and infrastructure projects, as well as providing more much-needed housing. “A larger, more influential East Suffolk Council will enable us to fulfill our potential in driving development, while keeping costs low.”

With the Secretary of State’s agreement, the new Council would come into being, and begin operations, following the local council elections in May 2019. The two existing councils will then be formally dissolved with elections to the new authority.

**Register for Garden Waste Collection** – Now Schedule starts May 2018

We are urging people who have not as yet signed up to register an interest in joining Suffolk Coastal’s Garden Waste Collection Service to do so.

At its Cabinet meeting in December 2017, Suffolk Coastal decided to introduce a charge for collecting garden waste from homes during next financial year (2018/19).

People in Suffolk Coastal will be given the option of paying an annual charge of £43 per garden waste bin (the equivalent of paying about £1.65 per fortnightly collection).

This is a completely voluntary scheme, which people will have to opt to join (rather than residents automatically becoming part of the scheme).

The first paid-for collections are scheduled to start from the beginning of May 2018, with local residents able to subscribe for the new service from 1 March 2018 and we will email them when the subscription service is live.

However, in the meantime, people can register their interest by completing a simple online form.

The reality is that Suffolk Coastal District Council protected the 'free' collection of garden waste for as long as it could. In 2015, when most of the councils across Suffolk and Norfolk introduced charging, we decided to maintain the 'free' garden waste collection service and to bear the cost of reduced Recycling Performance Payment support, despite the financial pressures on the Council. However, at the time, we did recognise that this is a discretionary service that we provide and we always said we would have to keep this decision under review.

Suffolk Coastal District Council is under increasing pressure financially, with dwindling support from central Government. Next year (2018/19), we are faced with a budget gap of over £2.8 million.

Providing the organic waste collection and composting service currently costs Suffolk Coastal over £1.2 million a year. This cost has been exacerbated by the £200,000 per year reduction in support for recycling organic waste previously provided by Suffolk County Council.

The East Suffolk Business Plan identifies the need for us to become increasingly financially-self-sufficient in the future.

The key thing that people need to realise is that this is about us protecting local services and being able to keep Council Tax increases down to a minimum. Any funds raised from the garden waste collection service will be re-invested in providing services to local people and reducing our budget gap. Suffolk Coastal remains committed to an ambitious programme of community-based and major capital investments, such as the current leisure redevelopment, in the coming years. So we need to continue to identify strong income streams, now and in the future.

Later in the year, subscribers to the scheme will also be given the option of receiving a free, larger (240 litre) green bin for their garden waste (240 litres is the most common wheeled bin size, but the current brown organic waste bins in Suffolk Coastal are 140 litres).

The new, larger green bins are expected to be delivered during the autumn (2018) to those residents who request one and have subscribed to the garden waste service.

To find out about Suffolk Coastal garden and food waste collection:  
<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/waste-collections-and-disposal/garden-waste/suffolk-coastal-garden-and-food-waste-collection/>

## **Looking back...**

### **Suffolk Coastal elected a new Chairman and Vic Chairman**

Cllr Chris Blundell was elected as our new Chairman along with Vice-chairman Nicky Yeo. Cllr Blundell, who represents the Martlesham Ward took over the post from Cllr Mark Newton. I'm sure you will join us in thanking both of them for their ongoing hard work for the district.

### **Thanks for your support at the Suffolk Show.**

Thank you to all that attended or helped at our Get Active in Suffolk Coastal stand within the sports village at the Suffolk Show. The show also gave us the opportunity to inform people about the Leisure Redevelopment Programme and meet our operators, Places for People Leisure and to also find out more about our other events happening this summer, including Women On Wheels (now to take place in April 2018) and Operation Camouflage and of course the Tour of Britain which finished in Aldeburgh in September.

### **Officially opened East Suffolk**

Suffolk Coastal District Council's new headquarters in Melton were officially opened and over 100 guests were present to see the Lord-Lieutenant of Suffolk, Clare, Countess of Euston, carry out the opening duties – amid praise for the design of the new building. The new offices were achieved without creating any extra tax burden on local people and now have offices that should create significant long-term saving for the tax payer. We have now got a modern, energy-efficient headquarters, which will enable us to continue to provide a high quality of service to local people.

### **Suffolk Day Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> June 2018**

On Wednesday, 21st June 2017, we had our first celebration for our wonderful county where Suffolk Day celebrated Suffolk's history, art and culture, cutting edge technology, stunning coastline, wildlife, food and drink, businesses, sport, university – the list goes on and on. This year scores of fun events will take place across the county once again in celebration of the wonderful county we visit, work, enjoy and call home.

### **We launched our first ever Summer photo competition in east Suffolk**

As you know Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have been working in partnership since 2008 and to reflect this, we wanted to celebrate east Suffolk as a great place to live, work and visit with the new East Suffolk Photo Competition.

The competition has four categories: - Living in east Suffolk - Working in east Suffolk - Explore east Suffolk - Under 16s (in any category)

The competition proved to be a huge success and congratulations once again to our winners and many thanks to all those that sent in their wonderful photos via Instagram – keep an eye out for this years competition.

### **We Saluted our Suffolk Armed Forces**

Thousands of people flocked to the seaside town of Felixstowe for a fun-filled weekend celebrating Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend 2017.

The action-packed event was hosted this year by Suffolk Coastal District Council in June.

As well as providing fun for all the family, the event had a serious side - recognising the huge contribution made by our servicemen and women, as well as marking the important 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dutch attack on Landguard Fort (which was the last time foreign forces launched an armed landing on English soil).

We would like to once again thank the many volunteers, who gave up their weekend to make the two days so much fun for everyone else and the organising committee for their hard work and dedication to creating this enjoyable weekend.

### **Started the work to transform Deben Leisure Centre**

Deben Pool closed on Thursday 31 August and work started on Monday 4 September for a 10 month period to transform the facility into a state-of-the-art leisure centre.

The new leisure centre has been designed with the Council's leisure development partner, Pulse Fitness and operators Places for People Leisure and includes a new, spacious gym, featuring modern equipment and the pool area will feature a new health suite with a steam room, sauna and ice room.

Suffolk Coastal's investment of £2.5 million in the new leisure centre has been boosted by £500,000 in Sport England National Lottery Funding.

The work to develop the leisure centre is part of the Council's five year programme to improve leisure facilities for the district and to encourage more people to become more active.

We would like to thank members of Deben Pool for their support for the redevelopment so far. During the closure, members and visitors can use our other facilities at Leiston, Felixstowe and Brackenbury.

A key part of our Business Plan focuses on increasing access to quality leisure facilities and activities as part of our commitment to getting more people fit and active. We hope Deben will be the ignition for our complete leisure redevelopment to create facilities our communities can be truly proud of.

### **New plans published for Leiston Leisure Centre**

New plans have now been published for Leiston Leisure Centre and Suffolk Coastal are now looking for feedback from the community.

Leiston is the second leisure centre in the district to be revitalised following the completion of Deben Leisure Centre in Woodbridge this summer, with work planned to start this autumn.

The improved leisure centre has been designed with the Council's leisure development partner, Pulse Fitness and will continue to be run by Suffolk Coastal's operational leisure partners, Places for People Leisure.

Suffolk Coastal hope the major investment in the leisure centre will help encourage more people to become fit and active.

The enhanced facility will be given a new, first floor area which will feature a large gym with modern equipment, including cardiovascular, strength, resistance and functional zones. Improvements will be made to the changing areas, providing high quality village wet changing facilities with family friendly parent and child cubicles, separate changing for schools and individual wet-side changing cubicles and showers.

A new health suite containing a sauna, steam and ice room with heated beds, a feature shower and relaxation area is being created, accessible from poolside.

The facility will include a new entrance space, with a coffee shop and an enhanced pool viewing area featuring a soft play area for children.

The community will be able to access more fitness classes with the addition of two new dance studios and a group cycling studio, which will also serve as multi-use bookable rooms.

Through listening to initial feedback and advice from Sport England, the two squash courts are being retained.

Improvements will also be made to the lighting in the pool area and the front car park will be resurfaced.

Work is planned to start in autumn, with an initial closure needed to undertake structural work for a short period. The leisure centre will then partially open to give access to parts of the facility during the work.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said:

“I really want to thank the community for their support for the improved leisure centre so far, as their initial input has helped us to rethink the design of Leiston and ensure that the modernised facility will cater for all members of the community.

“We want to create a fun and contemporary centre that boosts vitality for everyone and we believe the designs reflect this. The centre is in need of modernisation and the improved facility will help more people become fit and active as well as providing a contemporary space for the community to enjoy.

“We’re now looking for final feedback from local people on the design and functionality of the building so we’re ready to start working on the project later this year.”

The Leisure Team will be contacting and speaking with a range of groups, leisure centre users and other key stakeholders in the next two months. If you are a community group, local club or team and would like to have a chat with the Leisure Team, please email: [leisure@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@eastsoffolk.gov.uk).

If you would like to stay up to date with the progress of the Leisure programme, sign up to receive our regular newsletter by contacting: [leisure@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

### **We love apprentices in east Suffolk!**

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are celebrating the impact of apprentices within the two councils after recruiting a record number this summer. The apprenticeship scheme has become well established within the two councils with 43 trained since 2012. Even once their apprenticeships have been completed, 70% of apprentices over the last three years have stayed with the Councils to develop bright careers within the authorities.

Several of these have gone on to undertake further qualifications within their chosen field, including level 3 apprenticeships in Business admin and Customer Services, level 4 professional qualifications in Housing, and one young person who joined us in 2012 has recently completed a level 5 qualification in HR.

Apprentices are currently working in service areas across the two districts, including HR, planning, housing, finance, legal and Active Communities, with 13 new recruits joining the councils earlier this month. In return, we offer them all a business based, supported recognised qualification, a modern working environment, generous annual leave entitlements and valuable work based skills from day one.

### **Celebrated older residents on Silver Sunday**

Older residents from across East Suffolk were invited to take part in a number of free activities as part of a national campaign to reduce loneliness. Silver Sunday is an annual celebration of older people and raises awareness of the social isolation which affects so many. To mark the occasion, free events and

activities took place in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney and older residents are encouraged to get involved and try something new.

As detailed in our Business Plan, we want our communities to thrive and for our older residents to feel supported, healthy and engaged. Silver Sunday is a great opportunity to celebrate our older people and ensure their invaluable contribution to society is not overlooked. Along with partner organisations, we are working to combat social isolation and loneliness, which can have a devastating effect on people's physical and mental wellbeing. More details for 2018 Silver Sunday coming soon.

### **Cycling on the prom at Felixstowe**

SCDC ran a year-long trial and consultation which allowed cycling on Felixstowe Promenade after a request from Felixstowe Town Council

After running the consultation, to which over 500 people responded, it was therefore recommended to Full Council that SCDC removed the notices prohibiting cycling on the Prom at Felixstowe to allow all to safely enjoy the promenade.

### **East Suffolk Partnership**

The East Suffolk Partnership celebrated its fifth annual Forum with over 200 people attending the fully booked event at Trinity Park.

The theme "Unlocking the potential of growth in east Suffolk" focused on the idea of "inclusive growth". Inclusive growth is an important for promoting economic growth for the benefit of everyone - and we explored how to deliver economic growth while improving local services, supporting communities and protecting the environment.

The important annual event offered excellent networking opportunities and gave delegates the chance to participate in a collaborative approach to working in east Suffolk. Through a programme of presentations, workshops and seminars delegates examined how individuals and communities in East Suffolk can connect to, and feel the benefits from, economic growth.

The East Suffolk Partnership (ESP) attracts people from local communities, voluntary organisations, public services, businesses and local government and encourages them to work together for the benefit of east Suffolk.

### **Dog Control - Public Space Protection Orders**

The Council considered the outcomes from the pre-consultation exercise and the public consultation on the introduction on the draft Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) which outline dog controls in the district. Town and Parish Councils and the public were consulted on the seven proposed PSPOs which replace the existing by-laws, enactments and a local "order" in the Suffolk Coastal District which impose requirements on dog owners. As well as updating controls, PSPOs also provide a more effective and efficient way of dealing with these types of offence through the issue of a Fixed Penalty Notice. The benefit of this approach is that controls, such as the prohibition of dogs on certain beaches during the summer months, can be more effectively enforced through the issue of Fixed Penalty Notices rather than by way of prosecution. This isn't about banning dogs everywhere. It's about replacing the



existing laws to protect specific places where problems have been raised, with a more effective way of ensuring people control nuisance dogs. For instance; · Keeping dogs on leads at Landguard Point nature reserve – subject to time of year · Banning dogs from gated and fenced children's play areas · Excluding dogs on Aldeburgh and Felixstowe beach – at certain specified times

### **System recognised with second national award**

The hi-tech system, developed by Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority for handling imports at the Port of Felixstowe, has been shortlisted for another national award.

The Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS) has been shortlisted for a Local Government Chronicle Award in the Innovation Category.

This is the second time the software system has been shortlisted, after it was named a finalist in the Technological Innovation category of the APSE Environmental Services Innovation Awards 2017 in October.

Since its development and launch at Suffolk Coastal's Port Health Authority in September 2009, PHILIS has been developed to incorporate a scanning module to handle the high volumes of paperwork and original certification that accompanies imported food consignments.

In addition to benefiting the Port Health service at Felixstowe, the software has now been licenced to all of the major sea ports: London, Mersey and Southampton. During 2016/17, the system has also been developed by the team to manage animal welfare requirements at Heathrow's Animal Reception Centre (HARC).

The system now:

- Manages 85% of food imported into the UK from outside of the EU
- Supports 100 users operating from 4 Port Health Authorities and HARC
- Handles over 3million containers a year through the 4 ports
- Has delivered at least a 20% saving in officer time at Felixstowe
- Scans around 1 million documents a year
- Generates income for the Council through licence fees

### **Prosecuted a resident who landed up with a criminal record for waste offence**

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils reminded householders that they have a legal responsibility, or duty of care, to prevent their waste from being fly-tipped after a resident pleaded guilty to a waste offence.

The resident pleaded guilty to an offence of failing to fulfil his duty of care towards household waste contrary to Section 34(2A) of the Environmental Protection Act 1990 in March 2017 from his address. The case was brought to court after twenty sacks of general, unsorted household waste which were found to have been fly-tipped.

We would therefore urge anyone who arranges for any waste to be taken away from their home by anyone other than the Council's service partners Suffolk

Coastal Norse or Waveney Norse, to remember the “Scrap Code”, to avoid being held responsible, and risk acquiring a criminal record, should their waste end up fly-tipped.”

- S: Suspect. Beware of rogue waste carriers – reputable companies do not usually make direct approaches. If in any doubt as to whether someone is a legitimate waste carrier, do not allow them to take your waste.
- C: Check. Ask for their waste carrier registration details, and verify them by checking the online register (<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>) or by calling 03708 506 506. Always note down the registration number of the vehicle used to take your waste away.
- R: Refuse unsolicited offers to have any rubbish taken away. Always carry out your own research and choose who you wish to approach. Legitimate waste carriers are unlikely to seek business by going door-to-door.
- A: Ask questions. Always ask what exactly is going to happen to your rubbish and seek evidence that it is going to be disposed of appropriately. A legitimate, professional waste carrier who wants your business should not object to being asked reasonable questions.
- P: Paperwork. Make sure you get a proper receipt containing the written information for your waste. This should include what has been removed, and where it will be going. Make sure the Company or tradesman’s details are included.

If you see someone fly-tipping in Suffolk Coastal or Waveney, please report it in confidence online at: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/fly-tipping/how-to-report-fly-tipping](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/fly-tipping/how-to-report-fly-tipping)

Or by calling Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils on 01394 383789 or 01502 562111, or email [environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:environment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk).

More information for Suffolk householders, landowners, and businesses about how they can help prevent and tackle fly-tipping is available on the Suffolk Recycling website: [www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/fly-tipping](http://www.greensuffolk.org/recycling/fly-tipping)

### **Ran and judged a local competition for a new piece of Art Work at East Suffolk House commission**

Suffolk Coastal marked their first year in their new headquarters and were looking for a new and exciting piece of art to be displayed in the reception area which reflects Suffolk Coastal as a district, drawing on aspects of the East Suffolk Business Plan and compliments the architecture of the building.

Emma Green who lives locally in Woodbridge was picked by Suffolk Coastal staff and councillors to create a unique piece of work for the council.

Her paintings explore the coastal landscape in semi-abstract style, emphasising the light and atmosphere of the environment. Much of her work focuses on the River Deben, including the boatyards near her river-side studio.

The council received ideas from 22 artists of which five finalists were chosen to come in and meet the judging panel of staff, councillors and external arts experts who made the ultimate decision. Well done and thank you to all those that submitted towards this competition.

### **Launched a new domestic abuse website launched in Suffolk Coastal**

A new website was launched in Suffolk Coastal to support those affected by domestic abuse.

The Coastal Action Against Abuse (CAAA) website promotes the group incorporating professionals who work in partnership to raise public and professional awareness and understanding of the impact of domestic abuse on victims, their families and the wider community within Suffolk Coastal District.

The website signposts the public to local services and support in the area, links to national and local campaigns and increase awareness of types of abuse:

<http://www.c-aaa.uk/>

### **Felixstowe started work to become a dementia friendly town**

Felixstowe started work to become the first dementia friendly town in Suffolk Coastal to help make lives easier and support more accessible to people affected by dementia.

It's estimated that around 12,800 people in Suffolk are currently living with dementia, with the number rising in the future. Felixstowe hope the introduction of support groups and information sessions to businesses and individuals will help improve the community's understanding of dementia.

If you would like to get involved with the Felixstowe Dementia Action Alliance, email: [fxttaa@gmail.com](mailto:fxttaa@gmail.com) or phone 07717 150993.

For further information visit: [www.dementiafriends.org.uk](http://www.dementiafriends.org.uk)

### **We invested over £1m in Suffolk**

Suffolk Coastal is celebrating the success of its Enabling Communities Budget this month as funding pumped into communities reaches over £1 million, since the scheme launched in December 2013.

So far, our councillors have supported over 750 projects and community initiatives which equals to £1,038,048. Support has also been given to 23 projects through Suffolk Coastal's Exemplar Grants programme, amounting to £187,940.

The budget has supported everything from new play areas, improvements to community buildings, charities which help the youngest and oldest members of our communities, sports clubs and activities which cater to all ages, community tree planting and lifesaving defibrillators – with the list continuing to grow as Enabling Communities funding reaches communities.

This year each of our councillors have £6,500 to allocate to new projects, enhancing existing projects or community groups in their ward.

To find out how your local councillor is spending their budget, or for more information about the Exemplar grants visit their contact details pages to get in touch: <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil/councillors/suffolk-coastal-district-councillors>

### **Crucial Crew Plus trialled at Leiston school**

The Alde Valley Academy in Leiston is the first school in Suffolk to trial a new training initiative aimed at keeping young people safe.

Crucial Crew Plus is a new safety initiative aimed at high school pupils, focusing on how to stay safe in all aspects of life and includes self harm, cybercrime, sex education, substance misuse, grooming and healthy relationships, apprenticeships, realities of crime, self-esteem confidence and anxiety.

The training builds on the success of the one day training primary schools are invited to attend each year, Crucial Crew, and is provided to all year groups.

The training is made up of short presentations and interactive sessions which are supported by a number of local organisations including Suffolk Police, Suffolk Coastal District Council's Active Communities team, Suffolk Wellbeing Service, Access Community Trust, Terence Higgins Trust, Turning Point, Suffolk Coastal Communities team, Suffolk Road Safety, and the Youth Offending Service.

The training teaches children how to tackle the personal dangers they face and helps to prevent them from becoming involved in crime. It delivers hard hitting messages to young people on issues affecting them most, such as sexting, drug and alcohol misuse, grooming and gang violence.

### **Recent/Up to date information**

Cabinet Meeting this Tuesday 6 March 6.30pm (06.03.18) in the Deben Conference Room

#### **Landguard Partnership: Extension to Agreement**

We have supported the Landguard Partnership since 2009. However, the agreement to support the partnership runs out in April 2018. It may be renewed for further 5-year periods, subject to the agreement of all members of the partnership.

Partnership members have been consulted and agreed in principle to extend their support. As part of the Agreement, SCDC contributes £18,000 a year to the Landguard Partnership.

#### **Treasury Management and Investment Strategy for 2018/19**

Each year, every local authority must approve a policy strategy, which will govern its day-to-day treasury management objectives for that year. The strategy balances the need to maximise performance from investments, money market and capital market transactions, while minimising the risk to the Council's cash flows and banking. The overriding principle is security of Council's money.

Recent news:

#### **Suffolk Coastal Business and Community Awards Winners**

The 2018 Suffolk Coastal Business & Community Awards took place on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> March at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall. Organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council, the Awards celebrated the business and community initiatives and successes that have taken place in Suffolk Coastal over the last 18 months.

The evening was hosted for a fourth time by Steve Allen a comedian, writer and presenter of BBC2's The Mash Report and opened with a drinks reception sponsored by Gotelee Solicitors. Parker Communications provided a stunning set and flawless AV support throughout.

With a record number of entries for the awards this year, the judges had a tough job to shortlist the finalists and agree the winners. On the night there were more than 70 businesses and groups represented alongside the many individual finalists and distinguished guests.

Archway Carpets, Framlingham Business Association, Poppy's Pantry and Felixstowe & Walton United FC were among the winners. A total of thirteen awards were presented throughout the evening, covering categories including Customer Focus, Services to the Community, People Development, Encouraging Tourism and Business Growth (full list below). The winners received an engraved trophy and all the finalists were awarded a bottle of Adnams Prosecco with their certificates. Then, followed the awards presentations after which guests danced to live music from J.S. & The Lockerbillies.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure at Suffolk Coastal District Council, described the evening:

"I am always surprised and heartened not just by the dedication and energy that people show in supporting their local communities, but also in the breadth of the ways that our winners find to help and support the community. I would like to thank them all, as well as all those who nominated them for these awards.

A big thank you also goes to our sponsors. The way these awards continue to go from strength to strength says a great deal about the fantastic community spirit across Suffolk Coastal and is one of the reasons this is such a fantastic place to live."

### **Reminder - Safety advice on the beach**

Dog walkers are reminded to take extra care when visiting the coast following further reports of palm oil and the ongoing risk from Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning.

We are continuing to receive reports of palm oil along the Suffolk coastline and whilst it is not toxic, [it can cause illness in animals if ingested in quantity](#). Palm oil can be reported by calling 01502 527100, supplying an exact location.

Dog owners are also [reminded to take precautions against Paralytic Shellfish Poisoning](#) (PSP), a naturally occurring marine biotoxin, after a small number of pet deaths in the region. There is no risk to people or pets from the

seawater - the only risk is from ingesting PSP-contaminated animals found on the beach.

Dog walkers are advised to take precautions to prevent their pets from eating anything found on the beach. This may include keeping dogs under close control, on leads or muzzled if considered appropriate, while walking along the coast.

Additionally, following recent bad weather and the potential for coastal erosion, those visiting the beach are asked to take extra care when [walking on or below the cliffs](#).

### **Love East Suffolk this spring**

To coincide with the start of spring, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have once again launched their community litter pick scheme which rewards residents for cleaning up their communities.

The annual '[Love East Suffolk](#)' scheme encourages east Suffolk residents to organise group litter picks in their local area; all groups participating before 31 May 2018 will receive £20 for their nominated community fund or charity, and will be entered into a £200 grand prize draw, with prizes provided by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse.

The launch of the scheme runs alongside the Great British Spring Clean (2 to 25 March) which aims to bring together people from across the country to clean up litter from their towns, villages, countryside and coastline.

In a joint statement, Cllr Carol Poulter, Cabinet Member for the Green Environment for Suffolk Coastal and Cllr Graham Catchpole, Waveney's Cabinet Member for Operational Partnerships said: "Organising a litter pick in your town or village is a simple but effective way to dramatically improve your local area; it also makes a real difference to wildlife and the environment. We are hugely grateful to anyone who voluntarily picks up litter, whether this is through an organised litter pick or a quick beach clean – this, combined with the work of street cleansing teams from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse, really helps east Suffolk remain such a beautiful place in which to live, work and visit."

Both Suffolk Coastal Norse and Waveney Norse can provide groups with litter-picking equipment including sacks and disposable gloves, as well as removing any collected litter. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops and tabards can also be hired, subject to availability.

To be eligible for the scheme, all registered groups must submit a photo of their event and permit use of the photo for publicity purposes. All cash awards would be payable to a recognised charity or community group chosen by that team of volunteers.

To register your litter pick, please visit [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/love-east-suffolk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/love-east-suffolk)

### **Update - . PHILIS wins at national awards**

Over 1,000 of the most senior figures in British local government gathered at Grosvenor House, London on 21 March to celebrate the sector's greatest innovators as they attended the annual LGC Awards ceremony.

Winning the Innovation category was the Port Health Interactive Live Information System (PHILIS) developed by Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority for handling imports at the Port of Felixstowe, the largest container port in the UK.

The winners of the awards were selected by panels featuring some of the country's most respected council chief executives and other senior council officers who interviewed representatives of the shortlisted councils.

Nick Golding, LGC's editor, said:

"The LGC Awards are about celebrating the people and organisations doing the most to ensure their area succeeds. These people are true innovators, who are dedicated to local public service and improving their local area despite austerity."

Cllr Steve Gallant, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Community Health said:

"PHILIS has been a great success. Suffolk Coastal's Port Health team has developed cutting-edge bespoke technology, which has been adopted nationwide to make handling huge amounts of imports faster and more efficient, saving time for our staff but also helping speed up the import process that our country depends upon."

In addition to benefiting the Port Health service at Felixstowe, the software has now been licenced to all of the major sea ports: Port of London Authority, Mersey and ABP Southampton - Port of Southampton. During 2016/17, the system has also been developed by the team to manage animal welfare requirements at Heathrow Animal Reception Centre - HARC.

The commercial success of PHILIS supports the councils' aim of financial self-sufficiency.

[A specially-commissioned film](#) has been made to showcase the success of the system, made by local company Bruizer.

### **Take part in Suffolk's biggest walking festival to date**

With over 120 walks on offer, this year's Suffolk Walking Festival is shaping up to be the biggest yet.

Whether you are young or old, a novice or an expert, there is something for everyone. You could kick start your day on a Dawn Chorus walk or end it on a Twilight Safari, have a go at Nordic Walking or spend a day geocaching and seek out the treasures dotted around the landscape.

[The three week festival](#) launches with two walks at St Peter's Brewery in Bungay, on Saturday 12 May, each walk including a brewery tour.

Once again, the festival will include a challenge walk and this year's walk covers over 60 miles in just four days. The walk explores The Sandlings, a landscape of sandy soils, heathlands and forests stretching between Southwold and Ipswich.

This year also sees the launch of the Festival Fringe, a series of events that get you close to nature in the very heart of Suffolk's countryside. Fringe highlights include 'Twilight Safari', where you can experience nightlife waking up in an ancient woodland; 'Suffolk Sketchbook' where you can learn to sketch in the iconic setting of Snape Maltings; and 'Iconic Images', a series of photography workshops with one of Suffolk's leading professional photographers.

East Suffolk walks include:

- Discover Kessingland - 12 May
- Launch Jaunt (2 or 5 miles) - 12 May - St Peter's Brewery, Bungay
- Sizewell Dawn Chorus Walk - 12 May
- East Anglia's Valley of the Kings - 13 May - National Trust Sutton Hoo
- Iconic Images - 13 May - Southwold
- Suffolk Sketchbook - 15 May - Snape Maltings
- Nature Reserves of Woodbridge - 16 May
- Magical Minsmere - 16 May
- Historic Wickham Market - 16 May
- Wilderness As Far As The Eye Can See - 16 May - Carlton Marshes
- Pepper's Wash & the Roman Road - 18 May - Framlingham
- Benacre Dawn Chorus walk - 18 May
- Nordic Walking - 19 May - Carlton Marshes
- Historic Wickham Market - 19 May
- Nordic Walking - 20 May - Woodbridge
- Wellbeing walk - 20 May - RSPB Minsmere
- Beachcombing for Beginners - 20 May - Bawdsey
- East Suffolk Lines Station to Station - 21 May - Beccles
- Sea, Heath & Fen - 23 May - Sizewell
- Westleton Nightjar Walk - 25 May (Natural England)
- Nordic Walking - 26 May - Woodbridge
- Mindfulness and Nature - 26 May - National Trust Dunwich Heath
- Scenic Heights & Saintly Sites - 27 May - Bungay
- Beccles to Beccles - 27 May
- Signs of Spring - 27 May - National Trust Sutton Hoo
- Geocaching - 29 May - Carlton Marshes
- Walk in the Park - 29 May - Nicholas Everitt Park (Lowestoft Rising)
- Walk in the Park - 30 May - Brampton
- Walk in the Park - 31 May - Sparrows Nest Park (Lowestoft Rising)
- Westleton Nightjar Walk - 1 June (Natural England)



- Nordic Walking - 2 June - Lowestoft
- Sizewell Belts Wildflower Walk - 2 June
- Beachcombing for Beginners - 3 June - Bawdsey

Cllr Jane Storey, cabinet member for Highways, Transport and Rural Issues, said:

“It is great to see such a wide variety of walks and activities in this year’s walking festival and I would encourage as many people as possible to take part. I am hoping to go along to several of the walks with my dog – but there is something for everyone to enjoy.

“The walking festival is a great way to get active, connect with people and most importantly have fun! I hope that this year’s events encourage people to get out, get walking and enjoy the wonderful surroundings we have here in Suffolk.”

BBC Radio Suffolk’s Lesley Dolphin, patron of the walking festival said “It is so exciting that the walking festival continues to grow and grow- this year it’s even got a fringe festival and I’m really proud to be a patron. I’ve loved getting out for a walk ever since I was little when my mum and dad took me to see the red squirrels in Thetford Forest.

“Suffolk is such an amazing place with a huge range of landscapes to explore and what makes this festival so special is that, as well as doing a spot of walking, I learn something about where I live.

“There are over a hundred walks right across the county so there is bound to be something for you, whether it is seeing out wildlife, learning about the silk industry or exploring our villages and towns.”

The Walking Festival is organised by Suffolk County Council and is supported by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

Tickets for the events and walks are now on sale. To buy tickets or find out more information visit [Suffolk Walking Festival](#).

The festival is part of Suffolk County Council’s Discover Suffolk project which aims to improve and promote access to the Suffolk countryside – over 100 walking, cycling and horse riding leaflets are available to download for free from [discoversuffolk.org.uk](http://discoversuffolk.org.uk)

### **Protecting the tax payer**

Suffolk Coastal has pegged its increase in Council Tax to less than a fiver for the second year running. At its Full Council meeting on Thursday, 22 February 2018, Suffolk Coastal District Council’s Members voted unanimously to set the increase in its portion of the Council Tax for the coming financial year at 3.15%.

In real money, this equates to a rise of less than £5 in Council Tax for people living in a Band D property during 2018/19.

In fact, the annual increase in Council Tax on a Band D property for next financial year, from £157.32 to £162.27, is a rise of just £4.95 (or by less than 10p a week!), which is the same as 2017/18.

But the Council remains committed to investing in the future prosperity of the District, as Suffolk Coastal's Leader, Cllr Ray Herring, explained:

“Our financial situation is sound, because of the tough decisions we've made over the last decade to streamline our operation and become more efficient,” said Cllr Herring. “But there is no room to be complacent. There is a lot of uncertainty surrounding local authority funding from Government in the future. “This means we need to become increasingly financially self-sufficient, if we are to maintain our frontline services at their current level. We need to make more money from our existing resources, rather than relying on central Government funding.”

“This year marks a decade of successful partnership working with our colleagues in Waveney, dating back to when we were among the first councils in the country to appoint a joint Chief Executive. This partnership has created £22.5m in combined savings since 2008 – an amazing achievement when each council only has a £12million annual budget (2017/18 figures). The councils have also nearly halved their joint workforce, from 1,353 on 1 April 2008 to 733 on 1 April 2017.”

“We will continue to review our services and adopt a more commercial approach. We are confident we can deliver quality services, while continuing to make efficiency savings and investing in the future.”

Although Suffolk Coastal collects the Council Tax (on behalf of Suffolk Coastal, the County Council, Police and Town/Parish Councils), only about 10p in the pound goes towards providing our district council services.

**Response to Second Stage Consultation** on the future management of off-street Car Parks in preparation for Civil Parking Enforcement, and next steps: The paper identified the off-street parking orders which need to be prepared ahead Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) transferring from the police to the Suffolk local authorities . The implementation of CPE is planned for April 2019 but there is some uncertainty from Central Government about the exact timing due to pressure on their legal resources due to Brexit. The off-street orders need to be amended in April 2018 for any changes that are desirable between now and April 2019 as there will be a freeze on any changes from April 2018 to April 2019 while the CPE legal work is being carried out. For more information <http://apps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/committeeminutes/showagenda.asp?id=2263>

The recommendations at Cabinet were:: • Adjust tariffs for the first time in 5-7 years (See Appendix B) Investigate the implementation of Pay and Display tariffs at Slaughden Road (land ownership needs to be clarified as unclear if highway or council land). If landownership allows, the tariff level would be set at the same level as Fort Green and Thorpe Road.

The notices were erected 12/02/18 for a period of 6 weeks.

### **Useful reminders/contact details etc**

Tragically we updated you within our reports last June with a Statement following London Bridge terror attack.

With the tragic events that took place in London and Manchester last year, Suffolk Constabulary's Chief Constable moved to reassure local residents and visitors that although the county remains safe, the approach to policing will be continuously reviewed to help mitigate any potential further threats.

The latest guidance on recognising the terrorist threat and remaining vigilant can be accessed via the National Counter Terrorism Security Office website.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/national-counter-terrorism-security-office>

To report any suspicious activity or behaviour call **0800 789 321** or in an emergency dial **999**.

Help us keep our communities safe by reporting any suspicious activity and please pass any useful information to Suffolk Police about any incident.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/report-crime>

**DO NOT USE THE LINKS IN AN EMERGENCY OR IN A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE POLICE RESPONSE WHEN YOU SHOULD RING 999.**

To report information anonymously on any crime, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Crime reduction advice can be accessed via the Suffolk Constabulary website.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z>

### **Recycling Right?**

All recyclable waste collected from Suffolk households is taken to the Materials Recycling Facility (MRF) in Great Blakenham, where it is sorted and baled before being sent on for recycling. This facility is designed to only accept and process certain materials. If the wrong items are delivered they have to be removed, sometimes by hand.

To ensure the correct items are put into their recycling bins, residents are being asked to remember the following points to combat contamination:

- Food waste, glass, electrical items, and batteries are just some of the common contaminants found. These items can't go in your recycling bin at home but they can

be recycled elsewhere. Information on where they can be recycled are in the leaflet and online.

- Textiles and clothes can no longer go in the recycling bin, either bagged or loose. Instead people are asked to donate their clothing to charity shops, or to take it to their nearest recycling banks.

- Some people are even putting used nappies in their recycling bins. These must always go in the rubbish bin.

- Anything smaller than 4cm, such as loose bottle tops or shredded paper, won't get recycled they fall through the sorting process. However, bottle tops can be recycled by simply washing and squashing plastic bottles and putting the tops back on.

- Aluminium foil needs to be rolled into a tennis ball size before being placed in the recycling bin.

While it is great we are recycling more than half of our household waste here in Suffolk, this campaign will hopefully help people better understand what can be put in their recycling bins and what can't. Contaminating your recycling bin isn't a small problem and this year it's costing Suffolk taxpayers over £500,000 just to remove the wrong stuff. This money could be better spent supporting services elsewhere. It's therefore vital that we all do our bit and help get our recycling right.

For more information about what can be recycled in your blue bin, please visit [www.suffolkrecycle.today](http://www.suffolkrecycle.today)

### **Food Hygiene - Remember to ask 'where's the sticker?'**

We are pleased that many food businesses across east Suffolk have been awarded the highest possible rating for food hygiene, however, we are reminding you to check the food hygiene rating sticker when choosing where to eat out.

The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) helps people make an informed choice about where to eat by highlighting restaurants, pubs and cafes with excellent food hygiene. Food businesses can display their black and green FHRS sticker advertising their current food safety rating. This gives an immediate insight into the kitchen and shows how seriously the business takes food hygiene.

All food businesses are checked by the Council's Food and Safety Team to ensure they are compliant with food hygiene law and so if a business is not displaying a FHRS sticker, it might be they have something to hide! Food businesses with poor food hygiene standards will have a rating of 0 (urgent improvement necessary), 1 (major improvement necessary) or 2 (improvement necessary).

People are encouraged to take food hygiene seriously when choosing where to eat and so if the FHRS sticker is not visible, always ask 'where's the sticker?' You can also check the rating of food businesses online at [ratings.food.gov.uk](http://ratings.food.gov.uk).

All food businesses are capable of achieving the top FHRS rating of 5 (very good) and having a top rating can attract more customers. Food establishment owners should make sure their FHRS sticker is proudly on display on the door, the menu and in any advertising.

### **Power cuts - Don't be left in the dark**

There's a new number to call if you have a power cut.

When the power goes out, it can leave people feeling unsure about what to do. Research by Energy Networks Association found that 72% of people don't know who to contact during a power cut, with many wrongly thinking they should call the electricity supplier they pay their bill to.

105 aims to solve this problem, providing you with an easy-to-remember number that will put you through to your local electricity network operator - the company that manages the cables, wires and substations that bring electricity into local homes and businesses. 105 is a free service for people in England, Scotland and Wales, and you can call the number from most landlines and mobile phones. It doesn't matter who you choose to buy your electricity from - anyone can call 105.

You can also call 105 if you spot damage to electricity power lines and substations that could put you, or someone else, in danger. If there's a serious immediate risk, call the emergency services too. To find out more, visit [powercut105.com](http://powercut105.com).

### **Reminder to take care by the Coast & Flood warnings**

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are advising people to take extra care by the coast and to take extra care if they are out on the seafront, as storms can make parts of the coastline unstable.

To keep up to date with any forecasts and flood warnings

<https://www.gov.uk/browse/environment-countryside/flooding-extreme-weather>

Flood warning information, as well as guidance about preparing for floods, can be obtained from the Environment Agency website. When exceptionally heavy rain is forecast, the Met Office will publish local weather warnings.

### **Action Fraud**

If you think you have been targeted by a scam, or know someone who has, then call Action Fraud on 0300 123 2040 or report it online. Action Fraud is the UK's national reporting centre for fraud and internet crime.

### **Be cautious**

Please be especially cautious of any individual who approaches you and offers to sell you something at an incredibly reduced price.

Trust your instincts – If it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

Anyone who is offered goods for sale out the back of a van, by a person who approaches them in the street, or uninvited at the doorstep, should be highly suspicious. Goods sold in this way may be stolen, counterfeit, unsafe or simply overpriced.

Our advice is simply never to deal with traders in this way.

Help us keep our communities safe by reporting any suspicious activity.

Please use the following link to pass useful information to Suffolk Police about any incident.

<https://www.suffolk.police.uk/contact-us/report-something/report-crime>

**DO NOT USE THIS IN AN EMERGENCY OR IN A SITUATION THAT REQUIRES AN IMMEDIATE POLICE RESPONSE WHEN YOU SHOULD RING 999.**

To report information anonymously on any crime, contact Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111.

Crime reduction advice can be accessed via the Suffolk Constabulary website <http://www.suffolk.police.uk/advice/crime-prevention-z>

**Register to vote** <https://www.gov.uk/register-to-vote>

Use this service to apply to register to vote or to:  
update your name, address or other details on the electoral register  
change your voting preferences, for example to vote in person or by post  
change whether you're on the open register

It usually takes about 5 minutes.

This service is also available in Welsh (Cymraeg).

You may need the following, if you have them:

- your National Insurance number
- your passport if you're a British citizen living abroad

You need to be on the electoral register to vote in elections and referendums.