

December SCDC Ward Report

Local Van Thefts If your tools are your business please don't leave them in your van or vehicle overnight. Just think, how will you manage without them if they are stolen? Yes, it may be easier to leave them in there at the end of the day but you may be making it easier for someone else to do it for you.

Christmas Bin Collections – details of the collections were previously emailed to the PC but bin hangers should go out soon if not already. Dates are also in the Coastline Magazine which is put through every door in the district, or please go to our website, twitter or facebook page.

Universal Credit – please note that the roll out for SCDC has been pushed back until October.

Suffolk Coastal to Introduce Garden Waste Collection Charging

Suffolk Coastal District Council will be introducing a charge for collecting garden waste from homes during next financial year (2018/19).

At its Cabinet meeting on Tuesday (5 December 2017), Members heard the council was being faced with mounting financial pressures and reluctantly voted in favour of introducing the charges.

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). They will also be given the option of receiving a replacement free larger (240litre) bin for their garden waste, during the first year of the scheme.

The background to this decision is that, in autumn 2015, Suffolk County Council decided it could no longer maintain its financial support for organic waste recycling at the same level and said it believed the service, provided by district councils, should be chargeable because it is a discretionary service (not one that the councils are required to provide).

At the time, our colleagues in the other districts and boroughs in Suffolk (with the exception of Ipswich Borough Council) decided to implement charges for collecting garden waste.

“In 2015, 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,” explained Suffolk Coastal’s Leader, Cllr Ray Herring.

“However, at the time, we did recognise that this discretionary service that we provide and we always said we would have to keep this decision under review.”

“While Suffolk Coastal wanted to avoid introducing charges for collecting garden waste, we have had to bow to the inevitable faced with the harsh realities of our current financial situation.”

“One of the key factors is the dwindling financial support we are receiving from central Government, which is really biting home. So we need to re-examine any options we have open to us to raise money, in order to keep council tax increases down and maintain our services.”

“The reduction in the Recycling Performance Payment support from the county council to Suffolk Coastal equated to an annual shortfall of £150,000, rising to over £200,000 in 2018/19, which has been funded through existing budgets.”

“Added to this, our East Suffolk Business Plan identifies the need for us to become increasingly financially-self sufficient in the future and Suffolk Coastal also remains committed to an ambitious programme of community-based and major capital investments, such as the current leisure redevelopment, in the coming years.”

Suffolk Coastal currently collects about 50,000 tonnes of domestic waste a year. About one third of this (about 15,000 tonnes) is organic waste. This is co-mingled garden (estimated 13,000 tonnes) and food (estimated 2,000 tonnes) waste.

The remaining waste is made up of general ‘residual’ waste at 22,000 tonnes (44%) and dry recycling at about 13,000 tonnes (26%).

At this time, Suffolk Coastal (through its partner Suffolk Coastal Norse) collects comingled organic waste, which is currently processed into an agricultural soil improver at an in-vessel composting facility at Parham.

This organic waste processing contract ends on 31st March 2019, so a new contract is required to provide waste processing arrangements from April 2019 onwards. At its meeting, Cabinet also agreed to begin work on a new contract, looking at the options of continuing to collect comingled organic waste or moving to only collecting garden waste.

Organic waste containing even a small percentage of food waste requires treating in an animal by-product compliant facility and is therefore significantly more expensive than the less regulated systems for processing garden waste alone (about double the cost – so giving a total difference of about £468,500 a year between the two approaches at Suffolk Coastal, based on current levels of collection).

“As we are just approaching the time when we need to negotiate a new contract for organic waste processing in Suffolk Coastal, now is the obvious time to review how we provide this service,” said Cllr Herring.

“Collecting garden waste separately is a discretionary service, which the council is not required to provide. Not everyone has an organic waste bin or uses the service, but we have been subsidising the service from the council tax paid by everyone in the district.”

“This is a fairer system, which is closer to what occurs across most of the rest of the Suffolk and Norfolk. Although there is still further work to be carried out, to

decide if we continue to collect comingled organic waste or will provide a garden waste only service from 2019.”

A timetable for introducing the charge for garden waste collection is currently being drawn up, including details of how and when people can join & pay, should they opt to use the service. As soon as this detailed information is available, we will issue it to local residents.

Dragon’s Den star to open Major Business Showcase in 2018

A global food entrepreneur and star from BBC’s Dragon’s Den is pitching up on the Suffolk Coast next February to inspire East Anglian businesses at a Showcase trade fair including Meet the Buyers opportunities.

On 27 February 2018, Suffolk Coast Business are bringing back their popular trade fair to High Lodge, Darsham. A unique event which showcases Suffolk Coastal’s diverse, leading edge and entrepreneurial businesses. Major buyers are being invited to host a Meet the Buyer area where delegates will be able to book appointments to discover opportunities and pitch to the people that matter. Who better to open the event with words of wisdom about how to pitch successfully than the one and only Levi Roots.

For this major event on the Suffolk Coast Business calendar, Suffolk Coastal District Council’s Economic Development team have secured the support of Dragon Den star and global food entrepreneur Levi Roots to open the event in style.

Jenny Stockman, Chair of Suffolk Coast Business said:

“We are delighted that Levi will be opening the Showcase and sharing his amazing experience from humble beginnings, through pitching to investors and turning himself and his brand into a global phenomenon.”

Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, cabinet member for Economic Development at Suffolk Coastal District Council, said:

“We wanted to raise the bar in our support for this important Suffolk Coast Business event by inviting ‘Dragons’ Den’ veteran and entrepreneur Levi Roots to open the event and give some of our business leaders advice and guidance on becoming an entrepreneur.

“We are always looking at ways of supporting our businesses and helping them to broaden their horizons and prospects. The value of bringing Levi and his inspirational story to this ambitious audience is immeasurable and demonstrates the Council’s commitment to supporting the remarkable enterprises in Suffolk Coastal.”

Levi Roots said:

“I am really excited to be able to attend this great trade event and talk to fellow entrepreneurs about my successes.”

Suffolk Coast Business are also working with Suffolk Chamber of Commerce and Suffolk Coastal District Council’s Economic Development Department to secure key buyers that have contracts available and are keen to purchase locally. A full list of buyers will be released shortly.

The Suffolk Coast Business Showcase & Meet the Buyer will be held on the 27th February 2018, at High Lodge Leisure, Haw Wood, Hinton, Nr Darsham IP17 3QT. Trade show will run from 8:00am until 3:30pm. Meet the buyer appointments 8:30am - 12:00pm. Details of a special breakfast and the opening ceremony will be released soon.

Entry to the show and appointments with buyers will be free. Appointments with buyers must be booked in advance through the website. Priority booking for exhibition stands and appointments with buyers will be given to members of Business Associations affiliated with Suffolk Coast Business.

If you are a key buyer in Suffolk and would like to be involved, or a Suffolk Coastal Business who would like to exhibit or sponsor this evolving and exciting business event please get in touch with Julie Hepton, Business Development Manager by emailing Julie@Suffolkcoastbusiness.co.uk.

Homeless Reduction Act 2017 – Preparations for implementation: The recently introduced Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 is regarded as the most substantial change to how homelessness is dealt with since 1977. The Act comes into force in April 2018 and the focus is the prevention of homelessness. Most households at risk of homelessness within 56 days will be covered under the legislation, regardless of whether they are in priority need or intentionally homeless – a major change. This will significantly increase the number of people we will have a statutory duty to look after (with the increase estimated to be 26-51%). To assist Suffolk Coastal District Council in dealing with the increased demand as a result of the Act, the Government has allocated ‘new burdens’ funding totalling £110,684 to March 2020. This report sets out the new requirements of the Act and its likely impact on the Housing Needs service, along with recommendation to increase the staffing level and develop new service initiatives.

National first for east Suffolk – The big news for us at the start of this month was achieving a national first, when the Rt Hon Sajid Javid, Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government gave his backing to our plans to create a new ‘super district’ with Waveney. In a written statement to the House of Commons, the Secretary of State confirmed that he is ‘minded to’ support the proposals to create a new single authority for east Suffolk. “Having carefully considered all the material and representations I have received, I am ‘minded to’ implement the locally-led proposal I received from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney district councils in February 2017 to merge their two respective councils to become a single, new district council,” he said in the statement. The Secretary of State made this historic decision because he considers that:) The proposal is likely to improve local government in the area (by improving service delivery, giving greater value for money, yielding cost savings,

providing stronger strategic and local leadership, and/or delivering more sustainable structures);) The proposal commands local support, in particular that the merger is proposed by all councils which are to be merged and there is evidence of a good deal of local support; and,) The proposed merged area is a credible geography, consisting of two or more existing local government areas that are adjacent, and which, if established, would not pose an obstacle to locally-led proposals for authorities to combine to serve their communities better and would facilitate joint working between local authorities. It is believed this is the first time that the Secretary of State has given his backing to such a plan. He confirmed that the east Suffolk proposal was breaking new ground, saying: "I intend to assess any further locally-led merger proposals that I receive against these criteria." Before he takes his final decision, the Secretary of State has announced there will be a period of time, until 8 January 2018, during which those interested can make further representation to him, including making any suggested modifications to the proposals. He will then make his final decision, which will be subject to Parliamentary approval.

Car parking consultation – As of Friday we carried out the second round of consultation in relation to the implementation of Civil Parking Enforcement (CPE) in April 2019. CPE provides an opportunity for Local Parking Plans to be produced defining off-street and on-street parking control policies. The aim of this consultation is to gain an understanding of local issues and possible solutions and incorporate them into Local Parking Plans, so changes to car parks can be implemented in April 2018. By having their say, local people can help us gain an understanding of local issues and possible solutions to parking in East Suffolk, which can be incorporated into Local Parking Plans, defining off-street and on-street parking policies in the district. The responses to the first round of consultation have been reviewed and can be viewed on our website at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/visitors/parking/suffolk-coastal-car-parking-consultation. For more information, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/visitors/parking/suffolk-coastal-carparking-consultation

Improving access to broadband – Please help - Suffolk Coastal has earmarked £250,000 in funding to work with communities to ensure that businesses and residents can access Superfast Broadband in the future because at the end of 2019 it is expected that 2-3% of all properties won't have access to superfast broadband. The funding is to provide infrastructure so that Superfast Broadband is available to those remaining properties because we recognise that it's essential for business growth, educational attainment and increasingly a key means for residents to access services. Suffolk Coastal wants to work with local communities and wireless operators on projects to ensure total coverage. If your community is experiencing poor access to broadband we would like to hear from you, so we have an accurate picture of provision across the District. Contact us at broadband@eastsuffolk.gov.uk, with your broadband speed, postcode and landline telephone number so we can map the location. We'll then use that information to work with broadband operators to try and improve the service. For more information, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/enabling-betterbroadband-in-suffolk-coastal. To find out if your area has been upgraded or what the upgrade timetable is go to: www.betterbroadbandsuffolk.com

Women on Wheels rescheduled - A date has now been set for the rescheduled Women On Wheels event in Rendlesham, after October's event was cancelled due to bad weather. The cycling event which supports the Suffolk Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal has been rearranged in the spring, on Sunday 22 April. Women and girls of all ages and abilities are invited to take part in the event at Army Rock Barracks, Sutton. There will also be plenty of activities for everyone to get involved in on the day including a one mile dash competition, balance bikes for children, the Royal British Legion and information from local cycle shops. Anyone who booked to take part in October can transfer their booking onto the rescheduled event or receive a refund. The 5km starts at 11:30am for £5 and the 15m ride starts at 10:30am for £15. Under 16's are free if accompanied by an adult and all money raised from the event will go to the Suffolk Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal. Females of all ages can register online at:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sportandleisuredevelopment/women-on-wheels You can also inspire others to join in on the fun on the group's Facebook page. If you would like to contact our event organiser, Sarah Shinnie, please email: sarah.shinnie@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or phone: 01394 444652.

Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend leads to new fund - A new fund has been set up to support service personnel and create a lasting legacy following the success of the Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend earlier this year. Thousands of people flocked to Felixstowe for a fun-filled weekend to celebrate Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend 2017 on 24 & 25 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 350th anniversary of the Dutch attack on Landguard Fort (which was the last time foreign forces launched an armed landing on English soil). Now the money that was raised through the event is being used to start up a new fund, which military charities and not-for-profit organisations can apply for grants to benefit Armed Forces personnel, their families, veterans and cadet organisations that live, are stationed or operate in the Felixstowe and the Suffolk Coastal District area. The organisers are particularly keen to hear from people who may need money to support events being organised to mark the centenary of WW1 next year (in 2018). The Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend was a county event, hosted by Suffolk Coastal District Council and held in Felixstowe. And this partnership working is continuing through to running the new fund.

Cold weather – just a reminder to check on your neighbours during periods of bad weather and when flood alerts are in place <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/sign-up-for-flood-warnings>. Or call Floodline on 0345 988 1188.

Nominations open for the SCBCA Awards - reminder

The Suffolk Coastal Business and Community Awards are officially open for nominations until 5th January 2018.

This year's awards categories cover teamwork, growth, services to the community, health & wellbeing, customer service and tourism – and much more besides.

Each award aims to recognise the contributions, initiatives and successes of businesses, groups and individuals within the Suffolk Coastal District over the past 18 months. The winners will be announced at a black-tie awards dinner at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall on 15th March 2018.

We'd like to thank our line-up of fabulous and generous sponsors includes: Christies Care, EB Carpets, EDF Energy, Gotelee Solicitors, Places for People Leisure, Suffolk Places, Ufford Park and Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk Coastal Norse.

The full list of awards and sponsors is as follows.

- New Business of the Year sponsored by EB Carpets Felixstowe
- Business Growth Award sponsored by Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Customer Focus Award sponsored by Christies Care
- Encouraging Tourism sponsored by Suffolk Places
- Services to the community (group) sponsored by Suffolk Coastal Norse
- Services to the community (individual) sponsored by Places for People
- Big Bang Award sponsored by EDF Energy
- Club of the Year sponsored by Ufford Park
- Great Idea Award sponsored by Suffolk Coastal District Council
- Food & Drink Retailer of the Year sponsored by East Suffolk Food Trails
- Health & Wellbeing sponsored by De Vere Care
- People Development sponsored by David Button Independent Funeral Directors.
- Team of the Year

You can vote via our website, following the link at the bottom of the page:

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/nominations-open-for-the-scbca-awards/>

Help look after beaches this Christmas!

This festive season we're asking people across east Suffolk to help keep our [beaches clean](#) by making sure all their leftover cooking fats and oils are put in the bin rather than poured down the sink.

If leftover fat from cooking the Christmas dinner goes down the sink, even with hot water and washing up liquid, it soon sets hard in the cold pipes. When it mixes with other unflushable items, such as wet wipes and sanitary products, it creates what is known as a Fatberg.

The Fatbergs then clog the sewerage pipes and stop the waste water reaching the treatment works as intended. This means the risk of sewage spilling out into homes, streets, rivers and seas is substantially increased.

However, this is easily addressed. Make sure you follow these simple steps this Christmas and give the gift of clean rivers and seas for 2018 and beyond:

1. Scrape or pour leftover fat from roasting trays and pans into a heat resistant container then recycle or bin it once cooled
2. Wipe out grease left in pans with kitchen roll before washing
3. Use a sink strainer to catch any greasy food scraps

With the majority of UK residents cooking a delicious (but greasy!) meal on the 25 December it's important that this message is shared widely in order to protect our environment.

Please pledge your commitment to #binit4beaches via Marine Conservation Society's [Thunderclap](#) or share with friends and family.

Hopefully, we will see you all before the festive break. However, if we don't, best wishes to you all and your families – and we look forward to working with you in 2018!

Happy Christmas and best wishes for 2018

T-J & Maureen