



## **Briefing**

**April 2018**

Welcome to April News from T.J. Haworth-Culf and Maureen Jones, hope you all had a Good Easter, shame about the weather, hopefully now will be improving for the months ahead.

**East Suffolk Economic Growth Plan 2018/2023** – The changing national and regional economic situation has made this the ideal time to review this strategy. This report highlights the vision and objectives of the new growth plan along with the key sectors and growth areas where the intelligence suggests future economic growth will be focussed. It also provides a high level summary of the new national Industrial Strategy and the regional economic strategy by way of context and to demonstrate the level to which East Suffolk's economic strengths are linked to these plans. The overall purpose of this report is to gain Cabinet's approval for this refreshed approach to facilitating economic growth as set out in the new East Suffolk Economic Growth Plan.

## **Other News**

**PHILIS wins at national awards** – The hi-tech system developed by Port Health at Felixstowe continues to win recognition nationally. 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. Speaking about the system, the LGC Awards judges said: "Our winner shows genuine evidence of national innovation. The outcomes are already delivering significant savings, increased productivity and food security for the UK. The judges were truly impressed." 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." 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. The commercial success of PHILIS supports the Councils' aim of financial self-sufficiency. A specially-commissioned film, made by local company Bruizer, has been made to showcase the success of the system and is available via the Councils' YouTube channel (search 'east Suffolk councils').

**Sign Up for Garden Waste Collection** – Just a reminder that people can now sign up for the garden waste collection scheme.

Go online at: [my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/MyServices](http://my.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/MyServices). You will need to register, or login to, your My Eastsuffolk account and then complete the form for garden waste

Call Customer Services on 01394 383789, and choosing option '0'.

Or, pop in to see our Customer Service staff in the Customer Service Centre in Felixstowe and Woodbridge Libraries.

You will need a debit or credit card to pay. The fee for one bin is £43 for a year (the equivalent of paying about £1.65 per fortnightly collection). You can place your order now and don't forget to say 'YES' to the upgrade. There are extensive FAQs online. For more information about the new service see:

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/scdcgardenwaste](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/scdcgardenwaste)

**Help Shape Felixstowe Leisure** – Another reminder that the deadline for people taking part in the Felixstowe Leisure Consultation is fast approaching. Suffolk Coastal wants to hear what local people want in the Felixstowe area. We want to bring state-of-the-art leisure facilities to Felixstowe. This consultation focussed on 'what' people want, rather than 'where' they should be located. It costs £43 a year. The scheme is optional, with the first paid-for collections scheduled to start from the beginning of May 2018. It's quick and easy to sign up, either: The existing Felixstowe Leisure Centre was built in 1985 and Brackenbury Leisure Centre, also in Felixstowe, operated by the Council from the 1990's. Both facilities are in need of significant money to be spent on them to maintain their current offer. The consultation was launched on Monday, 19 February 2018, and will

run until the end of April 2018. The survey is at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/felixstoweleisurecentre>  
Anyone wanting to provide further comments, such as sports or community organisations with specific requirements or issues to highlight, should email the Leisure Team at: [leisure@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)  
Further details of the leisure review are available at: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure)

**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 ran alongside the Great British Spring Clean (2 to 25 March) which aimed to bring together people from across the country to clean up litter from their towns, villages, countryside and coastline. 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)

**Join The Fight Against Plastic Pollution** – On the environmental theme, most people were appalled by the shocking scenes of how plastic is polluting our seas, choking the lives out of our aquatic wildlife, recently shown on Blue Planet II. Suffolk Coastal District Council recently hosted a special event, entitled '**Plastics know your place in the community**', at its offices in East Suffolk House on Wednesday, 28 March. The event was staged by the Greenprint Forum – which has designated 2018 as its year of #plasticaction. Andrew Cassy, Chairman of the Greenprint Forum, explained: "Our vision is for the people of east Suffolk to work together to improve our quality of life and living standards, while reducing our environmental impact." This event supported two of Suffolk Coastal's aims in its Business Plan - 'Protecting, enhancing and making sustainable use of our environment'; and, 'a diverse mix of resilient and supportive communities that value their rural and coastal heritage; which feel engaged, valued and empowered; and where people's needs are met and where they can make a difference to their community.' For more information on the Greenprint Forum and its forthcoming events, see: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/events/forthcoming-events/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/events/forthcoming-events/)

**Visit Felixstowe** – Launch of 2018 Summer Season - Over 80 tourism-related businesses, organisations and individuals from Felixstowe joined together on Thursday 22 March, at the seafront Copas Bar (Manning's Amusements) to officially launch the new 2018 tourism season in the seaside town. Held as part of English Tourism Week (17 to 25 March), representatives from attractions, accommodation providers, shops and event organisers were in attendance, as the new Visit Felixstowe website and DL promotional leaflet was officially launched. Helen Greengrass, Felixstowe Forward Change Director said: "We are so overwhelmed by the support of this second launch event, which has doubled in attendance. It is great that so many of our Felixstowe tourism-based businesses and organisations have come together to work in partnership and offer great days by the sea for everyone in 2018. A big thank you to everyone who came along to support this event". For further information, please contact Felixstowe Forward on 01394 444577 or 01394 444884 – or email: [felixstowe.forward@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:felixstowe.forward@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

**Visit Felixstowe Tourism Award 2018** - The online vote for the first ever Visit Felixstowe Tourism Award has gone live. This new annual award will celebrate the tourist industry in the seaside town of Felixstowe by rewarding a tourist related organisation or businesses which has excelled during the past year. The Visit Felixstowe Tourism Working Group has shortlisted six key 'highlights': the new Felixstowe Pier, the award-winning Felixstowe Museum and Felixstowe Ferry Golf Course, the first ever Felixstowe Carnival Proms Concert, the action-packed Suffolk Armed Forces Weekend and the hugely successful Festival of Fabric which was launched in 2017. People can select their favourite with an online vote on the Visit Felixstowe website at: [www.visitfelixstowe.org.uk/visit-felixstowe-tourism-award-2018](http://www.visitfelixstowe.org.uk/visit-felixstowe-tourism-award-2018)

Closing date for voting is Friday 20 April 2018. The winner will then be announced at the Annual Town Meeting held at the Felixstowe Academy on Wednesday 9 May 2018.

**Working to solve peninsula housing crisis** - Six parishes are set to come together to help solve the need for

affordable housing on the Wilford Peninsula. The villages of Alderton, Bawdsey, Boyton, Hollesley, Shottisham and Sutton are joining together to set up Peninsula Villages Community Land Trust (PVCLT) – a not-for-profit organisation which will work with communities, landowners, housing associations, developers and the local authority to improve the availability of affordable accommodation in the area. The group, run entirely by volunteer trustees, aims to identify sites suitable for building permanently affordable housing for rent; once built they will remain owned by the community forever. A spokesperson from the PVCLT said: ‘The Wilford Peninsula is a beautiful place to live, attractive to visitors and surrounded by unspoiled natural habitats and national heritage sites. ‘The total turnover of businesses on the Peninsula is approximately £30 million with two thirds attributed to farm production and the remaining £10 million attributed to businesses such as pubs, cafes, campsites, holiday lets and village shops. ‘The problem is, however, that many of the people who work here find the lack of suitable accommodation and house prices a barrier to living here – and local people who want to stay here are put off setting up businesses in the area for the same reason. Equally, some senior members of our community may want to move out of from their large houses but are unable to find something smaller which allows them to go on living in the area that they have made their home. ‘Our primary aim is to work collaboratively with housing associations to ensure that there is more affordable housing both for rent and as shared equity in our parishes. This will enable local people to live and work in our villages and, in turn, help to make our communities more sustainable. We want to see an allocations policy which will ensure priority is given to individuals who have a strong personal link to the peninsula.’

**Felixstowe Museum** - Aims to recruit new volunteer trustees and expand its horizons with £4,320 from the Association for Independent Museums (AIM) Sustainability Grant Scheme. The grant will support the Museum to carry out a governance review, recruit new volunteer trustees, and review their forward plan. The AIM Sustainability Grant Scheme was very competitive, with nearly 30 applications nationwide to the scheme totalling over £128,000.00 worth of grant aid requests, and only £37,500 to allocate. The grant is relatively small but will make a significant difference to Felixstowe Museum. For more information, if you are interested in becoming a volunteer trustee at Felixstowe Museum, or want to know more about volunteering at the Museum more generally, please contact [felmuseum@btopenworld.com](mailto:felmuseum@btopenworld.com) or 01394 674355.

**And finally...**

**Suffolk Coastal Business and Community Awards** – Another great night was had by all at the 2018 Suffolk Coastal Business & Community Awards on Thursday 15th 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. 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. 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. The winners received an engraved trophy and all the finalists were awarded a bottle of Adnams Prosecco with their certificates.