

During the 2nd week of the Summer holidays Aldeburgh Town Council held their annual Sports Week for local children. The week was packed with different activities for the children of ages from 7-11. The event is available for all local children to attend (not just from Aldeburgh). TJ also once again enjoyed volunteering (which both us supporting through an ECB grant) for the event which was followed by another busy week at Operation Camouflage at Rock Barracks for local children in the district and military children.

The future of housing in East Suffolk

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are asking residents and stakeholders for their views on the future of housing in east Suffolk.

As councils throughout the country seek to address a number of critical housing issues, the first ever joint Housing Strategy for East Suffolk <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/housing2023/> sets out the councils' ambitions and priorities for housing services from 2017 to 2023.

Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Housing, Cllr Richard Kerry, said: "With plans for the creation of a new super district council for east Suffolk in place, it is a logical step to set out our joint ambitions for housing across the two districts. East Suffolk is a great place to live, work and visit but we have some significant local challenges.

"Our area is diverse - including rural villages, market towns, coastal resorts and commercial ports - so one size does not fit all and we need a strategy that meets the different needs of different places and people. We now want people to look at our strategy and let us know what they think about our ambitions for the next 20 years or so."

Cllr Chris Punt, Cabinet Member for Housing in Waveney said: "There are key challenges for housing in East Suffolk – demand, affordability, homelessness and meeting the changing needs of the population. The number of homes being built is not keeping pace with demand and an increasing number of households face difficulty in finding an affordable home that meets their needs.

"House prices mean that home ownership is out of reach for many people in the area, including young families. This increases the demand for privately rented homes and high number of people applying for social housing. It is complex and complicated picture and it is up to us to plan and manage a coherent approach to ensure we deliver the best possible outcomes for our local communities."

The full strategy can be found at www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/housing2023 and as well as establishing the challenges that the councils face it also maps out the key areas of focus for the two councils:

- Increasing the supply of Housing to meet a range of needs
- Getting the most out of existing homes and improving access to housing

- Providing specialist support and accommodation for groups with special needs
- Working in partnership to support successful communities, regeneration and economic development
- Providing well-managed and maintained homes – promoting professional standards and value for money.

Residents, businesses and stakeholders are welcome to comment on the document and any feedback should be emailed to housing@eastsoffolk.gov.uk no later than **Friday September 29**.

Annual voter registration form

Annual voter registration forms have been sent out and East Suffolk residents are being asked to respond promptly in order to help protect public money.

From 1st August, all properties in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney will receive a 'Household Enquiry Form' which is pre-printed with the names of all occupants currently registered to vote in each household. Residents are required by law to either confirm or update the details of anyone at the address who is eligible to vote in the UK. This information is used to compile the Register of Electors and enables those residents to vote in future elections.

Those who voted in the recent elections will still need to respond to their Household Enquiry Form – by Thursday 31 August 2017.

Stephen Baker, Electoral Registration Officer for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney, said: "Canvassing each household in the area is a costly exercise and we would ask that East Suffolk residents respond to their form before 31 August. This not only ensures you can vote in future elections but also saves money, which can be spent on essential services, by reducing the need for further reminders or door-to-door visits.

"We would also encourage residents to respond using one of the quick and easy automated methods; online, by calling a dedicated number or by text message. These methods take just a few minutes and are more cost effective than posting back the paper form – it's also better for the environment!"

The easiest and quickest way to respond is online or by using the automated free-phone number or text message service. Full details about how to respond are on the form and online <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/elections/annual-electoral-canvass/>

Any households which have not replied by 31 August will be sent a reminder and if a response is still not received, door-to-door canvassing will be necessary in order to collect the information required.

Once responses have been received from all properties, an up-to-date Register of Electors can be published. For more details about the annual canvass, please visit www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/annual-electoral-canvass.

Residents can respond to their form as follows:

Suffolk Coastal residents

For forms with no changes:

- confirm online at www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal
- call free-phone 0808 284 1563
- text 07537 410 063

For forms that require changes:

- Update your details online at: www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal

Businesses invited to have say on rates relief scheme

Suffolk Coastal District Council is calling upon the business community to have their say on a local business rates discretionary rates relief scheme which is designed to help businesses hardest hit by the business rates revaluation earlier this year.

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/business/business-rates/discretionary-business-rate-relief-suffolk-coastal/>

The Chancellor announced as part of the Budget on 8 March 2017, a £300m fund over four years from 2017-18 for local authorities and the Council has now been given the responsibility for designing its own scheme which suitably distributes relief in the fairest way possible.

The Government has calculated how much each local authority receives based on the number of businesses that have rateable values less than £200k and who experienced increases in their business rates bills of 12.5% or more (after other reliefs have been applied) as a result of the 2017 revaluation.

The Council's proposal for its scheme aims to go further and offer relief to businesses with rateable values less than £200k whose rate increases were 10% or more.

If the proposed scheme is introduced, eligible businesses would receive relief to reduce the increase in their business rates bill to a maximum of 10%. Any remaining funding following the allocations to eligible businesses would be allocated to those businesses experiencing extreme hardship as a result of the revaluation, through a discretionary 'Hardship Fund'.

Cllr Geoff Holdcroft, cabinet member for Economic Development at Suffolk Coastal District Council, said: "The discretionary business rates fund announced by the Chancellor in March was as a result of a concerted campaign by local authorities and business groups to ensure those businesses hit the hardest by the rise in rates received the recognition and support required to ensure they were not adversely impacted by disproportionately high increases in rates.

"This demonstrates the power that local councils and the business community have when working together and has resulted in local businesses paying far less in business rates this year and the year after than they would have originally done."

Suffolk Coastal District Council is keen to reach a formal decision on the scheme design and launch a scheme as soon as possible to give certainty to businesses, who have already received their Business Rates bills.

Responses to this proposal should therefore be sent by 3 September 2017 to accountancy@eastsuffolk.gov.uk clearly marked as SCDC Discretionary Business Rates Relief Consultation.

Postal responses should be sent to arrive at the following address by Monday 4 September - Financial Services, Suffolk Coastal District Council, East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Road, Melton, Suffolk, IP12 1RT.

East Suffolk House art commissioning project: Local artists only have until the 25th to enter their ideas for a piece of work to be displayed in East Suffolk House.

The project aims to find a new piece of art for the Council's headquarters in Melton and in return, give a local artist some recognition for their work.

The artwork will be displayed in the reception area of East Suffolk House and the Council is looking for something which reflects Suffolk Coastal as a district, drawing on aspects of the East Suffolk Business Plan and compliments the architecture of the building.

Artists are invited to send in their ideas along with a written statement, examples of their previous work, CV and an outline budget detailing the costs associated and they can do so in person, by post or online.

The closing date for entries is Friday, 25 August.

Tour of Britain engagement: We're gearing up our promotion of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain over the summer period to encourage our communities to get behind the Tour coming to the district on Friday 8 September.

Taste of Tour of Britain comes to Suffolk as dignitaries cycle along the route

On the 15th August TJ attended the below event (very busy day followed by back to back meetings)

Some of Suffolk's supporting partners, guests and councillors have had the chance to experience what it is like to be part of a peloton ahead of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain next month.

Around 25 riders joined ONE PRO cyclist Kristian House in riding from Eye to the historic Framlingham Castle, taking in some of Suffolk's finest landscapes as they raced along the 17-mile route.

Kristian, who is taking part in his last Tour of Britain this year, gave the group a real racing feel as they were escorted by Suffolk Police motorcyclists and assisted by a support car.

Following the ride, there was the chance to take a look at the Vittoria team bus.

The event took place as part of pre-cursor to stage six of the OVO Energy Tour of Britain, with 20 teams vying to win the 187km stage, which starts in Newmarket and finishes in Aldeburgh.

Cllr Tony Goldson, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for Health, met riders at Framlingham Castle and praised them for getting into the spirit of things ahead of the big day next month.

He added: "It's great to have the Tour of Britain back in Suffolk and this event will have whet the appetite of many.

"The weather was good and spirits were high. Those I spoke to following the ride were really pleased to have had the chance to find out how it feels for the elite riders.

"The Tour brings out the best Suffolk has to offer and so much support. Hopefully it will inspire more people to get out on their bikes and get active."

Andy Wood, CEO of Adnams, said: "It was a fantastic event, with the weather showcasing Suffolk at its best.

"We're delighted to have the Tour pass through Suffolk again and Adnams is pleased to be supporting the county council and the district councils along the route. We applaud their ambition to continue to promote these events, not only to bring people into the county but also encouraging our population to remain active."

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal District Council's cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Leisure, said: "Excitement is really building for the Tour now and I hope we are blessed with the same fantastic weather on the day of the Suffolk stage.

"It's great we've had so many join us this morning. Their support importantly showcases the whole county's excitement for the Tour coming in a few weeks' time and also highlights two important landmarks along the route."

Bike trail: One of the things we're launching is the bike trail which is coming to seven towns in the district.

In each town, the public can find a bike character in 10 locations; Phil McBucket in Aldeburgh, Speedy Sprinter in Framlingham, Eileen Yuleen in Leiston, Buster Record in Saxmundham, Patchy O'Puncture in Snape, Bea Mx in Wickham Market and Old Rusty in Woodbridge.

These characters will feature on window stickers which will be displayed in 10 windows of businesses and shops in the town. Once they've found all 10 window stickers, they will then get a sticker of that bike to collect on their trail map. Once all seven stickers are collected they will win a Tour of Britain goody bag.

Trail maps can be picked up at a central location in the seven towns, downloaded online and also our customer services within Felixstowe and Woodbridge Libraries and reception at East Suffolk House. Download a map at <https://www.tasteofthetour.co.uk/bike-trail/>

We hope this will be a bit of fun for children and families both living and visiting the district and create a buzz on social media.

Taste of the Tour: To engage food and drink businesses in the district with the Tour, we have been asking them to think creatively with their menus and come up with dishes and themes to link with the cycling race. We hope this will bring them some extra publicity and in turn encourage members of the public to come out and support the race on the day.

A number of businesses have already got behind the idea and we hope this will build as we get closer to September.

Window dressing competitions: We're running a competition to find the best dressed community and business in Suffolk Coastal welcoming the Tour.

The winning individual business will receive two tickets, together worth £300 to the VIP hospitality for the finish of the race in Aldeburgh.

The overall best dressed community will win £500 to spend in their area.

The competition will be judged by Cllrs TJ Haworth-Culf and Geoff Holdcroft on Thursday 31st August. The winning window will win two tickets to the VIP hospitality in Aldeburgh. Anyone wanting to take part need to email economicservices@eastsoffolk.gov.uk

Road closures and parking restrictions in Aldeburgh

The arrival of the Tour on Friday, 8 September means that there will be some disruption to local residents due to road closures and parking restrictions in the town.

You can view the maps for Aldeburgh, Aldeburgh parking restrictions (PR), Leiston PR, Framlingham PR, Woodbridge PR, Tuddenham PR and Wickham Market PR at: <http://www.eastsoffolk.gov.uk/news/road-closures-and-parking-restrictions-in-aldeburgh/>

Women on Wheels: We're linking our promotion of the Tour with Women on Wheels which returns to Rendlesham for the second year in October.

Women On Wheels returns to Rendlesham this October and this year we hope to get even more girls and women of all ages cycling in support of the Suffolk Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal!

The two rides taking place at Army Rock Barracks, Sutton on Sunday, 1 October offers an opportunity for all women and girls to get on their bikes to take on a challenge and have some fun!

Women On Wheels events are mass participation female only rides, raising money for local charities, that put a strong focus on the fun, friendly and inclusive aspects of cycling. They are very much aimed at non-cyclists and existing cyclists alike, with routes of an achievable distance, and are open to all ages.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, cabinet member for Customers, Communities and Leisure at Suffolk Coastal District Council, said: "With the success of the Women's Tour over the last few years and the arrival of the Tour of Britain to the district this year, we hope it has inspired more people to take up cycling. Last year we had a lot of fun, and raised just under £500 for the Suffolk Royal British Legion Poppy Appeal! This year we hope to get even more ladies involved. You don't have to be a pro cyclist or wear lycra - this is about getting girls and women of all ages together to have fun and raise money for a noble cause." Also many thanks to all of the husbands/partners, friends and family that came out to support those taking part last year.

The 5km starts at 11:30am for £5 and the 15km ride starts at 10:30am for £15. Under 16's are free if accompanied by an adult.

Females of all ages can register online. <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/sportandleisuredevelopment/women-on-wheels/>

Further information:

If you would like to sign up to raise money for the Royal British Legion through your bike challenge, download the sponsorship form.

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Leisure/Sponsorship-form-2016.pdf>

You can become a Poppy Appeal Volunteer. <http://www.britishlegion.org.uk/get-involved/volunteer>

Bikes for the 5km ride will need to be suitable for riding on a concrete surface and bikes for the 15km ride will need to be suitable for off-road riding.

Parking terminals upgraded: Parking meters in Aldeburgh, Felixstowe and Framlingham and have now been upgraded to accept new £1 coins to pay for parking.

The Parkeon Strada Rapide terminals comprise of a mix of solar powered and mains operated machines and make payments easier as well as capturing more detailed information about parking trends across the district.

All of the new terminals are linked to Parkeon's Smartfolio central management system, enabling the councils to monitor the terminals remotely and obtain detailed analysis of parking and payment data, which will help towards its future parking strategy.

High food ratings: More food businesses in Suffolk Coastal gained the highest marks for Food Hygiene in June.

Inspections in June by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council's Food and Safety Team saw a total of 33 local businesses receiving Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) ratings of '5/very good', highlighting their dedication to hygiene and excellent approach to food safety:

Overall, Suffolk Coastal 99.4% of businesses achieve a 3-5 food hygiene rating. To see the full list of business, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/news/east-suffolk-boasts-high-food-hygiene-marks

Coastal Conference: You can still book to be a part of this year's Suffolk Coast Forum Conference 2017.

The event at Trinity Park, Ipswich, on Friday, 6 October, is the 6th annual community conference being staged by the Suffolk Coast Forum.

This year's conference focuses on valuing our coast. It aims to bring together the reasons why the coast is so important to our communities, our businesses, our economy, culture and heritage, as well as our environment.

The speakers and workshops will put forward the compelling case for building the future of our coast through planning, investment and management – outlining the many innovative ways in which this can and is being done here and elsewhere.

The conference is free of charge. However, we would recommend booking your place early at: www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/suffolk-coast-and-estuaries-community-conference-2017-tickets-26964786402

Funding for Activity Providers: deadline 18.08.17 There's only a few days left for activity providers in east Suffolk to apply for funding from ESPAG for providing holiday activities for children this year.

The funding is being provided by the East Suffolk Youth Priority Action Group (ESYPAG) through the youth holiday activities programme which aims to improve the variety of opportunities available to young people aged between school years 7 – 13 (ages 11-18 years) in east Suffolk.

The East Suffolk Partnership (ESP) has provided £50,000 in funding to support the initiative, which is being led by young people, with support from the district and county councils until 2018.

Final decisions on successful applications will be made by a panel of young people who will also benefit from the project management skills they learn from the project.

Groups can now apply for funding of up to £1,500 by completing an application form with all bids needing to present their project idea to a panel of young people for approval.

This round of funding will be used to organise projects taking place during October Half Term and Christmas 2017 and can be applied by youth organisations across east Suffolk, including schools and statutory organisations, Town and Parish Councils, Youth Clubs and Registered charities.

The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 18 August 2017. For further details either call 01502 523354 or see:

www.eastsuffolkpartnership.org.uk/home/priorities/esypag

Summer photo competition launches in east Suffolk!

A brand new photo competition is being launched this summer in east Suffolk!
<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/leisure/east-suffolk-photo-competition/>

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils have been working in partnership since 2008 and are working to create a new, single 'super district' council for east Suffolk. To reflect this, we want 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)

In a joint statement, Cllr TJ-Haworth-Culf, Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure at Suffolk Coastal and Cllr Michael Ladd, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Economic Development at Waveney District Council, said: "We're looking for people to tell us a story with their photos and really show East Suffolk as a fantastic place to live, work and explore.

"We want people to think creatively and show a different side to what life is like in this part of world; this could be a photo of your local community, a popular beauty spot or your favourite place to visit.

"You don't have to be an expert photographer to take part and entries are welcome from both amateurs and professional photographers and people of all ages."

Competition entrants and winners will be featured on the Councils' combined Instagram account (@eastsuffolkcouncils). Entries can be submitted via Instagram by tagging @eastsuffolkcouncils and using #EastSuffolkPhotoComp or by emailing photos to communications@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

There is a maximum of 3 entries per person and photos must have been taken within east Suffolk (within the districts covered by Waveney and Suffolk Coastal District Councils) since 1 January 2017.

The winner in each category will receive a shopping voucher and a framed copy of their photo which will also be displayed at the Councils' East Suffolk House or Riverside offices.

The winners will be chosen by a panel of judges in October. One winner and one runner-up will be chosen for each category and winners will be informed directly and announced through social media, press and online coverage.

The competition closes on **Monday 4 September 2017.**

You can read the full terms and conditions online. <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Leisure/East-Suffolk-Photo-Competition-terms-and-conditions.pdf>

Have your say on air quality

We're encouraging local people to have their say on two reports about the District's air quality that have recently been approved by the Government.

The Council's Annual Status Report is now produced every year and provides a public facing update on air quality across the entire district.

"The report confirms that across the district our air quality remains generally good, with just two very specific areas of concern," said Cllr Carol Poulter, cabinet member for the Green Environment.

"These are the declared Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) in Woodbridge, and on the A12 at Stratford St. Andrew.

"The problem in both areas relates to the pollutant nitrogen dioxide which is an irritant of the respiratory system and can adversely affect people's health - particularly those who, for example, have existing heart or lung conditions or breathing problems.

"The really good news is that our monitoring reveals that the nitrogen dioxide levels within the Woodbridge AQMA has reduced in recent times, and levels recorded were below the standards set by the Government.

"This trend also continues to be seen within and around the revoked AQMA at Felixstowe with nitrogen dioxide concentrations continuing to fall due to considerable emissions reduction projects being undertaken by the Port of Felixstowe."

The second report produced is the draft Air Quality Action Plan for the AQMA at Stratford St Andrew which sets out measures to be put in place in order to reduce concentrations of nitrogen dioxide within the AQMA.

The Plan contains two short term, priority action measures and six longer term measures that may be considered in the future.

The main priority measure for Stratford St Andrew is to move the 30 mph speed sign further along the A12, outside the village. This action has been agreed with Suffolk County Council who undertook a consultation, with no objections received. It's hoped the changes will be in place by the end of the year.

Monitoring of nitrogen dioxide will continue to take place after this action has been made and if there are no improvements, we will continue to work with the County Council to consider taking forward other measures in the plan.

Alternatively, hard copies can be viewed at Customer Services in Woodbridge and Felixstowe libraries.

Comments can be emailed to environment@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk or sent to:

Environmental Protection, East Suffolk House, Station Road, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1RT.

We may not be able to reply directly to every consultation response, but be assured all comments received will be taken into account.

The final deadline for comments is Friday 8 September 2017.

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

And finally.. **The Beach Adapted Wheelchair** on Aldeburgh beach (Thorpe Road Carpark) is back and the shed has been modified with a RADAR lock fitted. Signs are in the process of being made.

Many thanks, TJ & Maureen

