

Happy New Year, we hope you all had a great festive period.

Cllr Haworth-Culf sends her apologies for this evening.

Coastline safety warning

As you know the area was on alert Friday re flood warnings and we would like to thank all those in the area that helped, supported and assisted in any way. It is wonderful to see the community work together in these times. I know when I (TJ) drove around Friday evening and night (early hours of Saturday) that everyone appreciates the work and effort, but I was surprised to see many people just having 'a look', which sometimes isn't the best thing to do. Thankfully things worked out ok but it is always better to be prepared, safe and aware in these incidents.

However, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are advising people to take extra care by the coast.

There are currently no flood warnings in place for east Suffolk but please keep up to date: <https://flood-warning-information.service.gov.uk/> However, people are warned to take extra care if they are out on the seafront, as the storms may have made parts of the coastline unstable.

As you know a man has sadly died after a part of the cliff collapsed at Thorpeness on Saturday and our thanks go out to all of the emergency services that attended and the volunteers for their help. (Police, Fire, Ambulance, Air Ambulance, RNLI, coastguard and many members of the public)

Please do take extra care, if you are out on the seafront.

This month we had/will have a number of key meetings taking place; Cabinet on Tuesday 3 January at 6.30pm, Simultaneous Cabinet with Waveney District Council on Monday 23 January at 6.30pm, Full Council on Thursday 26 January at 7pm and Special Cabinet on Tuesday 31 January at 6.30pm.

January Cabinet: Capital Programme 2017/18 to 2020/21 This month's Cabinet began with a decision on the programme of capital expenditure for the next four years and a revision of the current year's programme. The capital programme has been compiled taking account of maintaining an affordable four-year rolling capital programme, ensuring capital resources are aligned with our Business Plan, strategic vision and corporate priorities and to maximise available resources by actively seeking external funding and disposal of surplus assets. While Suffolk Coastal remains committed to continuing to find innovative ways of making savings through increased partnership working and improved efficiency, we need to make sure that we are in a position to protect frontline services, help provide more affordable homes and support economic development in the District.

Suffolk Coastal is already the strongest economy in Suffolk. Our Business Plan and Medium Term Financial Strategy for the next four years focus on how we, as a council, can invest in our local communities to enable them to flourish. Budget: We are working to develop a harder-edged, commercial approach to providing our services, in order to protect the local tax payer. The Council is faced with a steep reduction in the money it gets from central Government, and, through its partnership working with Waveney District Council, it has also drastically reduced its staffing numbers and spending, while still protecting its frontline services.

Suffolk Coastal has been very successful in getting spending under control, while still improving performance and safeguarding services. However, it is important we do not rest on our laurels. We need to build on this success. In developing our budget for next financial year (2017/18), we are focusing on how we will successfully deliver our Business Plan, while supporting the local economy. We have financial challenges ahead, but Suffolk Coastal has a very strong economy and we are confident we can deliver quality services, while continuing to make efficiency savings and building for the future. We need to help businesses develop, while driving the provision of more housing, particularly extra affordable homes. We also need to continue to deliver our Enabling Communities Agenda which aims to provide essential grants and support to help make communities stronger and more able to do things for themselves.

We have an ambitious Business Plan to deliver in a challenging financial climate, but we are driving forward on all fronts, such as looking at a merger with Waveney District Council and also moving to more economical new offices. However, we also need to continue to look at other ways of balancing the books by working smarter, using our resources more effectively and generating more income from our services, allowing us to maintain services and protect the tax payer from excessive increases in Council Tax.

Simultaneous Cabinet. Merger Decision A Simultaneous Cabinet Meeting for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils has been arranged for 23 January to consider the proposed merger of the two councils, prior to a report being presented to Full Council on 26 January 2017. We have now brought together results from the independent telephone survey conducted by ComRes and the wider engagement campaign asking residents to submit their views on the plans and will consider these results. Special Cabinet: There will be a special Cabinet Meeting on 31 January, to determine the Council's response to the Sizewell C Stage 2 public consultation at 6.30 pm in the Deben Conference Room at East Suffolk House. Reminder -The Stage 2 consultation for Sizewell C runs **until 3 February 2017** and feedback can be submitted online at: <http://sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info/>

Other News

Beach Hut Consultation – The consultation asking the public to consider how beach hut services should be managed in the district has been launched, the six-week consultation, running until 17 February 2017 we are asking for as many of you as possible to take part in this consultation. The two main drivers of the beach hut review are to increase equality by increasing the opportunities for residents to have

access to a beach hut, while also maximising the income generated from this resource to invest in core services, therefore reducing the burden on the Suffolk Coastal tax payer. The consultation follows December's Cabinet meeting which considered the review of the beach hut service. This review was set out to identify any service efficiencies and to consider further income generation opportunities, including the recommendations to convert all the current beach hut site licences into longer term leases and the proposed charges. Following the results of the consultation, a revised report will be brought to Cabinet to consider later in the year.

- You can have your say online. <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/features/have-your-say-on-beach-huts/>
- Suffolk Coastal Beach Hut review financial background

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/News/SCDC-Beach-Hut-Review-Financial-Background.pdf>

All responses need to be completed and returned by **5pm on Friday 17 February 2017**.

If you would like support completing your responses, you can call or visit our Customer Service Centres in Woodbridge and Felixstowe.

To contact our Customer Services team, call: **01394 383789**.

Car Park Improvements – The work to improve Melton Riverside Car Park is hoped to be completed on schedule. The work to the car park will involve a general clean up of the parking and picnic area and some realignment of the parking area to create an additional 20 car parking spaces. The car park surface will then be re-dressed, increasing the total number of parking spaces to 50. Once the work to this car park is completed, the Council hopes it will provide better access for regular users of the Country Park as well as providing extra parking for those using the nearby facilities at the station and new district council offices, providing additional public parking at times of peak demand such as major planning meetings.

The improvement works to the Thorpe Road Car Park in Aldeburgh are planned to begin on 16 January 2017.

Scam warning to residents

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are warning residents to remain vigilant following reports of possible scam attempts in the area.

One incident has been reported to the Councils which involved a customer receiving a call from someone regarding their Council Tax bill, stating they are entitled to a refund after being told they have been charged too much.

The telephone number involved was: 02037693102.

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.

Sizewell C Stage Two consultation - reminder

EDF Energy announced that the Stage 2 consultation for Sizewell C will run from 23 November 2016 to 3 February 2017.

Full details of EDF's exhibitions and their Statement of Community Consultation are available on the [Sizewell C Project Website](#).

<http://sizewell.edfenergyconsultation.info/>

- [Local authorities response to the draft Statement of Community Consultation](#)

<http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Planning/Sizewell/Stage-2-Consultation-Feb-2016.pdf>

Could we ask that you copy us in on any responses that you so that we can make sure that all are included.

Cold weather – Can we just remind and ask people to check on neighbours during the cold weather and also to allow extra time driving in cold conditions.

As always, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

TJ & Maureen.