
Coastline *Lite*



Produced by Suffolk Coastal to inform local Town and Parish Councils

Edition 7 – September 2015

Welcome to Coastline Lite – keeping Town and Parish Councils informed about developments at Suffolk Coastal and further afield.

Please feel free to share this newsletter with anyone who you feel might be interested in its content.

We have a packed publication for you this time, starting on the partnership working on the issues of Devolution and Short Stay Traveller Sites, as well as important information about what is happening at Suffolk Coastal:

Devolution – At its Full Council meeting last night (Thursday, 24 September), Suffolk Coastal voted to endorse the Suffolk Devolution Proposal, which has been forwarded to Government by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders' Group (SPSLG).

This is a fast-developing important issue for this county. Devolution is about the transfer of powers and responsibilities from central Government to the local level. It is not something dictated from the centre, but it is for each area – Suffolk in this case – to make a 'bid' for what it believes should be devolved to us. Suffolk has been encouraged by the DCLG to submit a proposal, which reflects well on our strong track record of collaborative working within this county.

The key to success will be our ability to work together and provide one coherent bid for the county. The initial bid is an expression of interest, which we now need to develop in partnership with our colleagues in the other local authorities, police and health. It outlines what areas we believe should be devolved to us – as well as identifying the expected benefits, such as economic growth, increased local skills or reduced burden on the tax payer.

This is not just confined to Suffolk, we are committed to continued and enhanced cross boundary working across East Anglia, are supportive of proposals from Norfolk and will be developing a joint approach around growth and productivity with Councils in Norfolk, New Anglia LEP and Greater Cambridge and Greater Peterborough LEP.

The SPSLG submitted the 'expression of interest' to the Government at the beginning of September, on behalf of Suffolk. The full bid will be developed during the autumn, but for more information, and to see the summary of the initial bid, see: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/a-devolution-proposal-for-suffolk/

Travellers – As we saw when we had the unauthorised Traveller encampment in Kesgrave recently, this is still a very sensitive issue with the public which places the local authorities in a very difficult position.

The intention is to once again examine the issue of providing short-stay stopping places for Travellers and Gypsies. The approach is to appeal to landowners and other key stakeholders to

identify likely sites for consideration, with the longer-term aim of identifying three sites across Suffolk. Any potential site will have to meet strict suitability criteria.

Launched on 23 September, the 'Call for Sites' aims to identify land on which to locate three Short Stay Stopping Sites for the Gypsy and Traveller community. The county currently does not have any sites of this type.

Between 2009 and July 2015, Suffolk has seen 280 unauthorised Gypsy and Traveller encampments. These encampments cost the taxpayer tens of thousands of pounds each year to deal with.

Other counties who have established short stay stopping sites have seen a significant reduction in unauthorised encampments.

The Call for Sites closes on 15 November. All sites submitted will be carefully assessed against the criteria so the Public Sector Leaders Group can decide which sites to put out for consultation in December 2015. In February 2016, the Public Sector Leaders Group will decide which sites to put forward to the planning process, with the aim of having the sites up and running by the end of 2016.

The Call for Sites booklet, a series of FAQs and details of how to respond are all available at www.suffolk.gov.uk/shortstay

Annual Budget Review Meeting – Suffolk Coastal's Leader, Cllr Ray Herring, will once again be chairing this year's Town & Parish Liaison meeting in the Council Chamber, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, on Monday, 16 November, 2015, starting at 6.30pm.

As well as keeping you informed and consulting with you about the Council's budget and medium term financial plan, we are keen to meet with Town and Parish Councils in order to highlight and discuss key issues and the continued financial pressures.

Representatives from Suffolk County Council and the Police will also be there to discuss the challenges they are facing and to answer any questions you may have.

These liaison meetings have in the past proven beneficial to the Council and of great interest to those who attended. You can send one or two representatives from your Council and I would be grateful if you could confirm representation, by Friday 30 October 2015, to karen.cook@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Enabling Communities Budget – One of the results of Suffolk Coastal streamline itself from 55 to 42 Councillors is that each elected Member now has a bigger Enabling Communities budget to work with to support initiatives in their Ward.

The Community Enabling Budget gives each elected member of Suffolk Coastal a pot of money, specifically designed to help develop projects in their community.

Since it was launched two years ago, the scheme has supported scores of projects. Now each Councillor has £5,500 in 2015/16 to spend directly on new projects or community groups in their ward – instead of the £4,000 they had in previous years.

The Enabling Communities Budgets is a Councillor-led approach, so if want to apply for funding through the ECBs please contact your relevant Ward Councillor. If you have any general enquiries you can contact Wil Gibson on **01394 444771** or email: wil.gibson@eastsuffolk.gov.uk.

Suffolk Coastal District Council welcomes any feedback on Coastline Lite, including suggestions for possible future development/content. If you have any comments, please send an email to steve.henry@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Enabling Communities Strategy - We are working on a new Enabling Communities Strategy for East Suffolk, which sets out how we will help communities to tackle the issues that are most important to them.

This includes providing information, advice and support to help communities to do what they want to do, rather than doing things ‘to’ or ‘for’ them.

The Strategy will take an asset-based approach, which means starting by thinking about what is strong, rather than what’s wrong. These ‘assets’ could be local people, groups or things that can be built upon to tackle local problems.

The Strategy and a handy toolkit will be available in November.

Neighbourhood Plan Guidance – Any communities in East Suffolk considering developing a Neighbourhood Plan are invited to attend a free networking event from 10am to 2pm on Thursday, 1 October, to learn more about the process.

The event at the Riverside Centre in Stratford St Andrew has been organised by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, with Community Action Suffolk, and is part-funded by the East Suffolk Partnership. Representatives from both Councils’ Planning and Housing teams will be present, along with Community Action Suffolk and Suffolk Highways.

It aims to support any group which is considering, or is in the process of completing, a Neighbourhood Plan, as well as groups with a completed plan already in place. Speakers will also share their personal experiences of Neighbourhood Planning.

Neighbourhood Planning is a Government initiative enabling communities to influence planning proposals at a local level. Neighbourhood Plans can help determine the location of new development, provide guidance for what new buildings should look like and grant planning permission for particular types of development.

A question and answer session will also be included at the event and a ‘surgery’ session will be available for attendees to gather further information and advice, as well as funding guidance.

To book your place, please contact the Active Communities Team on 01502 523186; email: jo.mccallum@eastsuffolk.gov.uk - or Community Action Suffolk on 01473 345327; email: gillian.benjamin@communityactionsuffolk.org.uk

Improved Planning Performance – The Council’s Scrutiny Committee has recognised the recent improvement in the planning service. The committee launched a review of the Council’s planning service in 2010, which resulted in a string of recommendations for improvement.

At its meeting on Thursday, 10 September, the committee received a comprehensive report which outlined planning’s progress, including the improved IT and public access, better liaison with Town and Parish Councils, and higher quality communication and service provision to customers.

The Chairman of Scrutiny, Cllr Phillip Dunnett, said: “Planning is a crucial function of the Council, so it is important that we get it ‘right’ and people have confidence in it. This report shows the progress that has been made and provides a positive outlook for the future.”

Suffolk Coastal District Council welcomes any feedback on Coastline Lite, including suggestions for possible future development/content. If you have any comments, please send an email to steve.henry@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

“It is important we recognise the hard work which has been put in to achieving this much-improved position, such as ironing out the teething problems with the new IT systems, to provide a quality of service in Planning.”

The full report to Scrutiny on the Planning Service can be seen at:

<http://apps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/committeeminutes/showagenda.asp?id=20924>

Brown Bins/Organic Waste Collection – You may have received queries about the issue of whether Suffolk Coastal will be charging local people to collect their organic (green) waste, following Suffolk County Council’s decision to reduce their funding (recycling credits) in this area.

This is an important issue for Suffolk Coastal. We have a good track record on recycling. In 2013/14, we were in the top 10% of local authorities in the country (coming 19th out of 352 authorities) with a recycling rate of 57.44 and we would prefer not to charge for collecting green waste.

The situation remains that we are still examining this issue in detail at Suffolk Coastal and no decision has been made. Cabinet is due to receive a detailed report on this issue in October.

While we welcome any information or comments which will contribute to this debate, it would be inappropriate to speculate on what the Council’s decision might be on this issue.

Accommodation Project – Work is still progressing well on the building of the new headquarters at Riduna Park, Melton. The buildings should be completed late spring/early summer next year, to allow for fitting out, ahead of the Council moving from its current Melton Hill headquarters next autumn.

A key part of the plan to move into the new accommodation is the upgrading of our customer services provision at Woodbridge Library, to provide a high-quality service in the heart of the community (see article below).

For the latest information on the accommodation project see:

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/accommodationproject/

Woodbridge Library – At its meeting at the start of this month (September), Suffolk Coastal’s Cabinet supported a proposal to invest about £60,000 to improve the Customer Service provision at Woodbridge Library.

Suffolk Coastal closed the tourist information centre (at Woodbridge Railway Station) in 2013, to link with a partnership working arrangement with Suffolk Libraries to create ‘one stop shops’ for customers at Woodbridge and Felixstowe Libraries, incorporating tourist information with the provision of other council services.

The planned move of its headquarters from Melton Hill, will mean more Suffolk Coastal staff will be based at Woodbridge Library.

To read the Cabinet paper on this proposal, see:

<http://apps.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/committeeminutes/showagenda.asp?id=20897>

Suffolk Coastal District Council welcomes any feedback on Coastline Lite, including suggestions for possible future development/content. If you have any comments, please send an email to steve.henry@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Seafront Gardens Opening – About 100 people braved the elements to attend the formal opening of the Felixstowe Seafront Gardens on Wednesday, 26 August.

We were able to open seven of the eight Gardens to the public ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend. The final Garden (the Town Hall Garden) will be opened towards the end of the year, once the bespoke wooden-framed shelter is put into place.

It will take some time for the plants to bed in properly and develop. There will also be some minor on-going work in the Gardens, as people begin to use them again. However, even in the poor weather conditions, the Gardens looked fantastic.

The launch went very well, with the emphasis on the major investment the whole of Suffolk Coastal has made to this project and, linking to the many other promising projects being developed in Felixstowe, the long-term prosperity of the town.

It is important to stress this is not the end of the project. The Gardens will continue to improve as the plants bed in and the remaining work is completed – and we have a 10-year maintenance plan in place to make sure the Gardens are kept in prime condition over the next decade. So our involvement with the Gardens will remain into the future.

East Suffolk Partnership Forum 2015 - The third ESP Annual Forum will be held at Trinity Park Conference Centre, Bucklesham, near Ipswich, on Friday 27 November 2015 from 9am - 2pm.

The ESP Board recognises that with support, local people are often best placed to find innovative solutions to local problems and this year's forum will seek to challenge our perceptions and promote creative approaches to tackle local priorities together. We have a packed programme of speakers, workshops and seminars lined up, and there will also be plenty of opportunity to visit the 'market place' and network over lunch.

The forum is free of charge and, due to the popularity of the event, advance booking is essential – by visiting: www.eelga.gov.uk/events/east_suffolk_partnership_forum_2015

The Thriving Community Buildings Project - The Thriving Community Buildings project offers communities in Suffolk Coastal and Waveney assistance to build resilience through community buildings and has already provided support to 18 communities since November 2014.

The project is developed and delivered by Groundwork Suffolk and Community Action Suffolk (CAS), with support from Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils, as well as funding from the East Suffolk Partnership.

To date, seven communities have received on site audits to help identify priorities, such as covering the costs of energy and maintenance, connect with relevant agencies and together search for/develop resources needed to increase their resilience and improve their offer for the local community.

Support has included heating system controls and upgrades, lighting upgrades, grant funding applications, Solar PV, building fabric improvements and utility tariff reviews. The support has also helped improve governance of community groups as well as identifying ways to increase turnover through marketing and services and appropriate charging.

A further 11 have received support at meetings or by phone and email from Groundwork Suffolk and Community Action Suffolk. From the six completed audit reports, annual savings of over £9,723 and carbon savings of over 47 Tonnes have been identified.

Suffolk Coastal District Council welcomes any feedback on Coastline Lite, including suggestions for possible future development/content. If you have any comments, please send an email to steve.henry@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

If you manage a community and would like to find out more or to go onto the waiting list please contact: Jamie Murphy, Jamie.Murphy@groundwork.org.uk tel: 01473 350370

Or visit: www.greensuffolk.org/green-communities/communityenergy/thriving-community-buildings

Councillors' Interests – Firstly, thank you to all the Town and Parish Councillors who have already completed their Register of Interests.

To date, nearly 94% of Suffolk Coastal Town and Parish Councillors have completed their online Register of Interests forms since the new term of office began.

However, about 50 Councillors have yet to complete their forms. These are reminded that they have a legal duty to submit and maintain an accurate and up-to-date online register of interests, within 28 days of being elected.

Councillors can fill in their forms online by the clicking on the following link:

<http://tinyurl.com/d55n5zs>

Any councillors needing assistance, such as requiring a new password or a reminder of their username, should email: elections.scdc@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Help keep Suffolk Coastal beautiful - As we bid farewell to the summer and welcome autumn, it's time to give our environment a well-deserved clean.

Nobody likes to see litter spoiling our beautiful district – so why not do your bit this autumn by picking up any litter you come across whilst out and about and help make a real difference to our environment?

Our partners Suffolk Coastal Norse will provide disposable gloves and sacks for recyclable and non-recyclable litter and can also collect any litter collected. Just call **01394 444000**, or visit: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/fly-tipping/litter where you can register your litter pick using our online form.

How can we improve access to data - Residents, businesses and community groups across Suffolk are being asked how their local council can improve openness and give people better access to information.

Any feedback will be form part of a joint initiative, called 'Releasing Data for All', involving Suffolk Coastal, as well as the other district and borough councils in Suffolk, which is funded by a £205,000 government grant.

Now, the councils behind the bid are asking local people to identify what information they want access to.

The project aims to identify and publish collections of data, held by councils in Suffolk, which could be helpful to partner organisations, their communities, businesses and organisations. Part of the initiative will seek to reduce duplication between the councils in order to improve efficiency.

For more information regarding the Releasing Data For All project, including how to get involved, contact Kate Parum on 01449 724901 or Karen Coll, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Corporate Manager on 01449 724566 or email: opendata@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk.

Suffolk Coastal District Council welcomes any feedback on Coastline Lite, including suggestions for possible future development/content. If you have any comments, please send an email to steve.henry@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Emergency Response - A special event is being held in Stowupland on Friday 13 November 2015 to on emergency planning issues.

The conference will acknowledge the achievements of communities who have devised localised emergency plans, hear from some top speakers about the importance of being prepared, as well as how the training courses that have been provided this year have benefitted their volunteers.

It is open to any volunteers already involved in Community Emergency Planning in Suffolk, as well as to anyone who would like to know more about the scheme, would like to get involved with an existing group, or start a new group in their locality.

The newly formed Community Emergency Planning Steering Group (Suffolk) will be talking about what they have achieved over their first 12 months and looking ahead to 2016 as well as letting people know how they can get involved in some of the working groups.

The Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit run regular workshops, training and produce a quarterly newsletter for the community volunteers involved in writing and developing their plans. Past copies of these can be found on www.getpreparednow.co.uk

Anyone interested in putting together a local emergency plan **or** wanting to attend on the day, should contact emergency.planning@suffolk.gov.uk or call Sue Herne on 01449 724851/07776 481787 to request a place/ make arrangements.

Take Part - Suffolk Coastal is encouraging people to take part in The People's Run 2 Remember on Sunday 25 October.

The 5km fun run takes place in Rendlesham Forest at 11am. There will also be activities between 10am and 2pm for the whole family to enjoy, including a climbing wall, bouncy castle, face painting and refreshments.

Previously known as The Poppy Run, the event aims to commemorate fallen soldiers and raise valuable funds for associated charities; ABF The Soldiers' Charity, RAF Benevolent Fund, Royal Navy & Royal Marines Charity and Scotty's Little Soldiers.

Suffolk Coastal District Council are organising this event again this year and hope that everyone will get involved. Participants can sign up here: www.peoplesrun2remember.com/event-entry

For anyone who can't cover 5km but would like to show their support, Suffolk Coastal District Council is looking for volunteers to help out on the day. Interested parties should contact: active.communities@eastsuffolk.gov.uk or Tel: **01394 444652**

And Finally.....

Chairman's Challenge – Just a reminder that our Chairman has set herself the challenge of visiting every parish in the District during her year in office.

Councillor Susan Harvey, who represents the Kirton Ward, became the district's first citizen, when she was elected as Chairman of Suffolk Coastal District Council at its Annual Meeting in May.

"I believe one of our strengths of this area is our great community spirit, so I have set myself the challenge of visiting all 118 parishes in Suffolk Coastal during my year as Chairman. There are a lot

Suffolk Coastal District Council welcomes any feedback on Coastline Lite, including suggestions for possible future development/content. If you have any comments, please send an email to steve.henry@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

of great things going on out there in the communities. I want to do my bit to support them by getting out to as many events as possible,” she said.

Cllr Harvey has already attended many events during the summer but is keen to add to the list and tick more parishes off her list to visit.

“I have received a great welcome at all the events I have already attended. The people have all been very positive, friendly and welcoming. They are genuinely pleased to see me at their event and are interested in what Suffolk Coastal is doing, as well as my role as Chairman,” said Cllr Harvey.

“Now the challenge is to find out what is going on in all the different communities and to get round and visit as many of them as possible, to promote the event, celebrate great community spirit and support the hard work of the organisers.”

So, if you have an event which Cllr Harvey can visit, please send details to:
chairman@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

More information about Suffolk Coastal District Council, including all our press releases, is available on www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk

If you have any feedback on this edition or suggestions for the content of future editions, such as possible topics/stories, please let me know by emailing me at:
steve.henry@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Please feel free to share this newsletter with people who you think might be interested in its contents.