

Cllr Maurice Cook and Cllr William Taylor

## East Suffolk Council Annual Report

(Suffolk Coastal District Council & Waveney District Council)

In this first ever joint annual report, we invite you to look back over a busy year.

May we take this opportunity to thank everyone that voted in the recent elections. We would like to express our thanks to all retiring Councillors and wish all the new ones a successful and enjoyable term in office.

***New Council became law as Orders were made***

***Signed, sealed and delivered: a new Council for east Suffolk was created in April. Parliament made the Orders required to enable us to create the new East Suffolk Council***

***Under the Orders, the East Suffolk Council came into existence on 1 April 2019, when both Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council were abolished. Prior to that, the Orders now create a Shadow Authority, formed of all 90 Members who represent the existing Councils. Its role was to oversee the creation of the new Council and ensure a smooth transition to the new Council, with seamless delivery of the services which are provided now.***

***Cllr Ray Herring, and Cllr Mark Bee said:***

***"This historic confirmation was the culmination of a great deal of hard work by members and officers; however this work does not simply stop now. We will continue to maintain our focus on this next stage of the journey, ensuring that the transition from two councils to one council is as smooth as possible.***

***The decision to create the East Suffolk Council saw the creation of the largest district area in the country, of 487.2 sq miles (1,261.9 km<sup>2</sup>). The East Suffolk Council now serves a quarter of a million residents and deliver over 80 different services.***

So, locally for all Cllrs there is much work to do and to consider, as a brand new ward and Council we will face different challenges and differing points of view. It is pivotal that we all work together to ensure all voices are heard and represented so that we can achieve the best outcomes.

**Community Enabling Budgets**

**We each have a new budget of £7500.00 to allocate via our ECB pots. All of the information about our grants is available on our website please but please do get in touch if you have a project that you would like to discuss.**

**Even though we have all been in the purdah period, work has continued at East Suffolk House. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if I can be of assistance to you.**

**Recent news, updates and looking back over another busy year:**

### **Views sought on anti-social behaviour controls**

East Suffolk Council is asking local people for their views on anti-social behaviour controls. Over the last year, Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs) have replaced the designated Public Place Orders (DPPOs) in the district due to the Anti-Social Behaviour, Crime and Policing Act 2014. During this process, East Suffolk Council has been in discussion with Suffolk Police to review the PSPOs and is now questioning whether they are still needed.

There are currently ten PSPOs in place in East Suffolk. After recently reviewing these, we have found no evidence to suggest that they are actually needed because there are other, better ways to deal with the issues that they are trying to tackle. Therefore, before the Council makes any decisions on the issue, a public consultation has been launched to ask the public for their view.

The consultation is running from 7 May until 17 June 2019 and the Council wants to hear the views of local residents and businesses.

Have your say by completing the short survey <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/TVCLQGF>

All consultation responses will be given due consideration by the Council before any decisions are made. The final decision will rest with East Suffolk Council and will be scheduled for consideration at a Cabinet meeting after the closure of the consultation period.

### **PHILIS Reaches Major Milestone**

The hi-tech system developed by the Council's Port Health service in Felixstowe has reached a major milestone – handling its one millionth job at the port.

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. PHILIS is the IT system developed in house by Suffolk Coastal Port Health Authority, part of East Suffolk Council, which went live in September 2009.

Now, as it approaches its tenth year in operation, the system has handled its 1,000,000<sup>th</sup> job passing through the Port of Felixstowe. The cutting-edge technology was developed in-house by a small team for a fraction of the cost it would have taken to 'buy in' a system.

And, not only is the system still going strong in Felixstowe, it now handles over 85% of all imports coming into the UK from outside Europe. "PHILIS has been a great success. Our Port Health team developed cutting-edge bespoke technology, which has been adopted nationwide to make handling huge amounts of imports faster and more efficient, saving time for our staff but also helping speed up the import process that our country depends upon," explained Phil Gore, head of East Suffolk Council's Environmental Services and Port Health.

"The trust and confidence we placed in our in-house development team has been vindicated, as not only is the system still going strong here, it has also been licensed to other major ports in the UK providing an income for the Council. PHILIS has evolved and developed over the years, and the team that developed the original PHILIS continue to be part of its future."

In addition to benefiting the Port Health service at Felixstowe, the software has now been licenced to all of the major sea ports: Port of London Authority, Mersey and ABP Southampton - Port of Southampton. During 2016/17, the system has also been developed by the team to manage animal welfare requirements at Heathrow Animal Reception Centre - HARC.

The commercial success of PHILIS supports the councils' aim of financial self-sufficiency. As well as enabling Port Health to deliver a quicker, more effective and efficient service, PHILIS has meant that increases in workload over the last nine years have been met without the need to increase the size of the team.

The system now:

- Manages 85% of food imported into the UK from outside of the EU
- Supports 100 users operating from 4 Port Health Authorities and HARC
- Handles over 3 million containers a year through the 4 ports
- Has delivered at least a 20% saving in officer time at Felixstowe
- Scans around 1 million documents a year
- Generates income for the Council through licence fees

A specially-commissioned film about PHILIS has been produced by local company, Bruizer, and can be seen

at: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOhxoV\\_QMWY&t=30s](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nOhxoV_QMWY&t=30s)

To learn more about Port Health see: <http://www.porthhealth.eu/>

### **Applications open for popular apprenticeship scheme**

Applications are now open for a successful apprenticeship scheme which helps young people kick-start their careers in local government. Applications are now

open for the East Suffolk Council apprenticeship scheme. 9 opportunities are available in a number of teams, including Coastal Management, Customer Service, Food & Safety, Audit and Planning.

Carol Lower, HR and Workforce Development Manager at East Suffolk Council said: "We are committed to offering local young people opportunities to grow and fulfil their potential; our established apprenticeship scheme offers a route into employment with plenty of additional benefits. The scheme is always popular and we would encourage anyone interested to apply for these varied and exciting roles."

The roles offer a host of benefits, including a fully funded qualification, invaluable workplace skills, training and development opportunities and generous annual leave entitlements. Over 80% of apprentices stay with the Council once their apprenticeship has finished and continue to have long careers in local government. To enable potential applicants to learn more about these apprenticeships, meet the team managers and learn more about the application process, the Council is holding two open evenings:

- Monday 13 May (5pm – 6.30pm) at Riverside, 4 Canning Road, Lowestoft, NR33 0EQ
- Tuesday 14 May (5pm – 6.30pm) at East Suffolk House, Riduna Park, Station Rd, Melton, Woodbridge, IP12 1RT

Those interested in coming to an open evening should email [HR@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:HR@eastsoffolk.gov.uk) with your name, the date of your preferred open evening and whether anyone else will be coming with you.

The apprenticeship scheme gives young people a clear pathway from education into work and teaches them key skills which are essential for employment, such as questioning and listening, giving feedback and managing relationships. The scheme also benefits existing council staff by developing their supervisory and management skills, as well as enabling them to become mentors. After their apprenticeship is complete, the apprentices are encouraged to apply for alternative roles within the Council. This gives them the opportunity to secure permanent employment and also creates a vacancy for a new apprentice.

Full details of all the apprenticeship opportunities and details on how to apply are on line. Applications close on 9 June 2019.

### **Framingham set to get connected**

The historic and picturesque town of Framlingham has been chosen to pilot a hi-tech new scheme to help people access the internet and make use of digital technology. The aim of the scheme, titled 'Digital Towns Project' is to make the whole of East Suffolk digitally enabled to help drive the economic development of the District.

The 'Framlingham Digital Towns Pilot' is the first project to go ahead in the scheme in a partnership led by Framlingham Town Council, Framlingham Business Association and East Suffolk Council. This will make Framlingham the first of what could be a long line of towns in East Suffolk to receive free wifi, along with a whole host of other digital and technological solutions.

Eileen Coe, Town Clerk at Framlingham Town Council, said: "The Town Council is delighted to be working in partnership with East Suffolk Council and Framlingham Business Association on this project to deliver free wifi in Framlingham. This is a wonderful opportunity for the town."

Victoria Perkins, Chairwoman at the Framlingham Business Association, said: "Framlingham Business Association is pleased to be a part of this pilot that will offer free wifi and support to maximise business use of electronic media.

"This will bring real benefits to both FBA members and non-members alike. We are looking forward to the next stages of the design and build."

The Council, said: "The concept is a simple one. Take a small rural town in the heart of East Suffolk and explore what is possible in terms of using digital and other technology to help the town and its communities thrive. We'll see what works, what doesn't – and use that learning and evidence to expand the concept across the whole of East Suffolk. The contracts have been signed with the contractors and we are currently working on finalising the finer details – we hope to be able to start the work very soon. All being well, we hope that the work will be completed by mid-summer 2019."

### **European Parliamentary Elections**

The European Parliamentary Elections are being held on Thursday 23 May and unless the United Kingdom leaves the European Union prior to that date, voting to elect MEPs **will** take place in this country.

Therefore, while an agreement to leave the EU could yet be reached, councils must prepare for the election as normal.

Poll cards were sent out to households in East Suffolk from (Thursday 25 April). This will also include cards for those who have chosen to vote by post – and these will be clearly marked. Please look on line for further guidance.

### **Southwold Harbour Lands**

A brighter future for Southwold Harbour has been secured following a historic agreement by Waveney District Council and Southwold Town Council, supported by local harbour users.

At a meeting chaired by Cllr Mark Bee, and Michael Rowan-Robinson of Southwold Town Council, it was agreed that a new strategic body called the

Harbour Management Committee will oversee harbour operation, bringing expertise and experience to the management of the port.

It will ensure there is more local involvement and engagement in the management and delivery of harbour operations and safeguard its future. The Committee will consist of a group of Councillors and experts committed to securing long-term investment, while also reinforcing transparency and local involvement.

A spokesperson for Waveney District Council said:

“Following a thorough and detailed consultation with local people, we are delighted that a decision has been reached that addressed the concerns of various stakeholders while also safeguarding the future of the harbour. “Investment in the harbour can now take place with confidence and in the knowledge that local people will play a role in a bright future for the town and the site.”

In December, the Joint Committee agreed that it wishes to revisit resolutions made in March 2015 to create a charitable company to manage the Southwold Harbour Lands as it believes these resolutions were no longer appropriate.

The new ‘Harbour Management Committee’ for the Southwold Harbour Lands will provide a sustainable model which will:

- Meet all of the ‘Key Principles’ outlined in the 2014 ‘Southwold Harbour Lands Consultation’ document
- Enable ‘local influence’ by inclusion of varied stakeholder groups, including Southwold Town Council and Waveney District Council
- Provide an opportunity to include appropriate skillsets for the effective management of the Southwold Harbour Lands
- Provide an effective management structure to implement the PGGG and consider future governance and legislative options
- Satisfy the economic security and level of control required by Waveney District Council for future investment

Work will now get under way to begin the process of establishing the committee agreeing its governance and making appointments in the best interest of the Harbour. This work will be carried out jointly between Waveney District Council and Southwold Town Council and we will be engaging with the public and stakeholders during this next crucial stage in the process.

### **All welcome at information event**

Residents with physical, sensory or learning difficulties or mental health problems, along with their carers, were invited to attend an information event in Beccles. Waveney Disability Forum and the East Suffolk Communities Team, supported by Tesco, held an information event on recently at Beccles Public Hall.

This is the second Disability Information event held in East Suffolk, a great opportunity to find out what services, support groups, clubs and activity groups are available in the area for people who have a disability. Groups and organisations were invited to book a space for an information stand to showcase their services whilst also networking with other like-minded groups and individuals.

The Disability Forums in East Suffolk create an opportunity for people with disabilities and disability organisations in the local area to come together to consult directly with the Council on the services and facilities which affect them.

### **Man found guilty of littering in Leiston**

A man has been fined more than £200 after being found guilty of a littering offence. At a hearing at Ipswich Magistrates' Court on 16 April, a man was charged with littering following an incident last year.

On 6 September 2018, the person was witnessed throwing a cigarette end on the ground in Valley Road, Leiston before driving away. The incident was reported to Norse and they issued a £80 fixed penalty notice which was not paid, despite being sent reminders. The resident, who did not attend his court hearing, was found guilty of littering and was ordered to pay a total of £230, comprising £100 in compensation, £100 for costs and £30 for the victim surcharge.

Phil Gore, Head of Environmental Services and Port Health at East Suffolk Council said: "There is no excuse for littering and we will always try to hold those responsible accountable for their actions. The Council can issue a fixed penalty notice of £80 to those who cause littering and, as shown in this case, failure to pay this notice can result in legal action and further fines. Please always dispose of your litter responsibly and if there is not a litter bin nearby, please take your rubbish home with you."

### **Coastal Team celebrates Arts Centre funding**

Southwold Coastal Community Team celebrated after receiving another financial boost to support the development of projects contained within their Economic Plan.

Supported by the Coastal Community Team (CCT) and East Suffolk Council, Sole Bay Arts CIO secured funding of £35,000 from the recent round of Coastal Revival Fund. This will support their ambitions for [Southwold Arts Centre](#), based at St Edmunds Hall, to become a sustainable artistic, cultural and community venue for the town and surrounding local area.

The funding will enable the Arts Centre to install retractable seating to provide a multi-use and accessible venue, as well as increase its capacity from 220 to 260, whilst keeping the flexibility required for cabaret-style, church and community events.

Peter Adshead, Centre Manager, said: “This award marks the beginning of a new phase in the arts centre’s development and coincides with the appointment of new trustees, drawn from a broad spectrum of the local community, along with a new management board to deal with all operational aspects of the venue, with the required skills to enable the full community benefit to be fulfilled. Not only will the greater capacity enable the centre to attract more mainstream artists and theatre companies but will also lay the foundations for our planned business expansion into conference and larger cinema / theatre projects. Following consultation with hall users, the new seating will also improve accessibility for wheelchair users who will no longer be marginalised on the edges of the auditorium.”

This recent funding follows the announcement earlier this year that £15,000 of Coastal Revival Funding was awarded to Southwold Town Council for a feasibility study for the Southwold Boating Lakes; this project is also contained within the CCT’s Economic Plan. The CCT, formed in 2017, is led by a steering group comprising representatives of Southwold Town Council, Reydon Parish Council, Southwold and Reydon Society, East Suffolk Council and other key business and community representatives.

The Coastal Revival Fund is intended to help improve the economic sustainability of coastal assets and coastal communities more broadly.

[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/southwold-coastal-community-team](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/southwold-coastal-community-team)

### **Pupils inspire district-wide period poverty scheme**

Pupils at Felixstowe Academy launched a campaign to end period poverty - inspiring Suffolk Coastal councillors to call for a similar roll-out across the District.

The Felixstowe Academy campaign, titled ‘Proud, Period!’ aims to support young women throughout their periods by providing boxes filled with free sanitary products. It comes after national investigations showed some girls were forced to miss school because they can not afford sanitary protection. The idea for the campaign came from pupils Chloe Mills, Kat Walker, Katie Bridges-Burns, Megan Hobby and Jasmine Smith. With support from their Subject Leader for Health and Social Care, Mrs Couto and supply of sanitary products from Basic Life Charity, they made it a reality.

Speaking on behalf of the girls, Katie Bridges-Burns said: “Sanitary products aren’t a luxury, they are a necessity, and every girl and woman should have access to them. Through ‘Proud, Period!’ we’ve helped achieve that for the girls at Felixstowe Academy. We now aim to take it further and help people in the wider community.”

“I am so proud of the 6<sup>th</sup> Form Health and Social Care students who have championed ‘Proud, Period!’ such an important initiative. Their energy and



passion to destigmatise ‘that time of the month’ is something that will be remembered in years to come,” said Mrs Couto.

Felixstowe Academy now has six boxes with sanitary products at the school - two on every floor. The boxes include sanitary towels, tampons, wipes, tissues and information pamphlets. Toilets containing the boxes are marked with a red glitter heart on the door.

Inspired by the ‘Proud, Period!’ campaign, some Suffolk Coastal councillors joined together to start a scheme, titled ‘Period Poverty’.

Suffolk Coastal councillors joined together and donated a total of £18,237.16 from their Enabling Communities Budget for the scheme and are challenging local businesses and organisations to get involved to help end period poverty in east Suffolk. We very much wanted to support the ‘Proud, Period!’ campaign because no girl should ever have to feel embarrassed or miss school because they can’t afford sanitary products. The girls at Felixstowe Academy can be very proud of what they have achieved and it has really inspired us to try and tackle this issue across the District. Therefore, we have set up the ‘Period Poverty’ scheme so we can work towards ending period poverty in east Suffolk once and for all. Our goal is to see it rolled out in places such as libraries, schools, food banks and community centres.

However, in order to make it a success, we need the support of local businesses and organisations. Not only do we need to raise awareness of the scheme, we need locations where people can donate sanitary products and also locations where we can place boxes for those who need it. We know that some businesses and organisations are already supporting period poverty through various national schemes and we would like to urge them to get in touch to discuss how we can work together to achieve our goals.

If you are a local business or organisation and would like to get involved in the ‘Period Poverty’ scheme, please contact Chloe Winlow on [chloe.winlow@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:chloe.winlow@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

### **Further details of Suffolk stage of OVO Energy Women’s Tour announced**

Further details of the opening stage of the 2019 OVO Energy Women’s Tour in Suffolk on Monday 10 June have today been announced. Riders will tackle two SKODA Queen of the Mountains climbs and contest three intermediate Eisberg Sprints during the 157.6 kilometre leg from Beccles to Stowmarket.

Action will get underway in the centre of Beccles, with 96 riders from 16 teams due to take the start at 10:30, with the finish on Ipswich Road in Stowmarket expected between 14:30 and 15:10.

The first intermediate Eisberg Sprint, backed by the UK's number one alcohol-free wine, will come after 98 kilometres or around two hours of racing outside the entrance to RAF Honington, near Ixworth.

The day's second Eisberg Sprint comes not long after at Fornham St Martin on the outskirts of Bury St Edmunds, while riders will also contest a third Eisberg Sprint as they race through Stowmarket for the first time, before tackling a 12 kilometre finishing circuit.

The first three riders across the line at each Eisberg Sprint will earn points on a 3-2-1 basis, with the leading rider being presented the Eisberg Sprints Jersey on the podium in Stowmarket following Stage One.

Two SKODA Queen of the Mountains climbs are in the second half of the stage, the first at Little Whelmetham after almost 125 kilometres, while the second comes with just over six kilometres of racing remaining at Buxhall, giving riders the perfect opportunity for a late attack to try and steal victory in Stowmarket.

Dr Amanda Jones, Suffolk County Council Director of Public Health, said:

"The sprints and climbs announced today demonstrate the exciting route we have planned and the many fantastic locations for spectators to catch the action.

The Women's Tour and events like it provide an excellent opportunity to showcase Suffolk to an international audience, while encouraging communities across the county to get on their bikes, get active and help us to make Suffolk the most active county in England.

Being active has real social, physical and mental health benefits and I hope that this year's race inspires even more people to take up cycling and take part in the wide range of events Suffolk has to offer, as part of an active and healthy lifestyle."

"We're looking forward to welcoming the OVO Energy Women's Tour back to East Suffolk, especially as Beccles will be hosting the Grand Depart for the first time. The event is a great opportunity for our communities and local businesses to get involved and help showcase our beautiful area to a national audience."

Following Stage One in Suffolk, the OVO Energy Women's Tour will feature stages in Kent, Oxfordshire and Warwickshire, before the final two days of racing in Wales with the penultimate stage in Powys before the final stage in Carmarthenshire, finishing on the south Wales coast at Pembrey Country Park. The race continues to form part of the prestigious UCI Women's WorldTour series, which began with the Strade Bianche one-day race in Italy on 9 March.

Further details of this year's OVO Energy Women's Tour, including the full race route and competing teams, will be released in the coming weeks.

## **Knowledge sharing event for local businesses**

As part of the ongoing work between Innovation Martlesham and East Suffolk Council, local businesses are invited to a knowledge sharing event.

The event, titled 'The Secret of Selling – Know Your Customer!' will give attendees insight into the knowledge Innovation Martlesham (IM) has gained from working with over a hundred companies who are part of the IM cluster at Adastral Park, Ipswich.

The session will look at the importance of knowing your customers and the associated processes that can be used as part of the procurement process on an ongoing basis and will feature guest speakers:

- Andy Rayner - CTO Nevion
- Mark Fisher - Procurement, East Suffolk Council
- Darren Lewis - Head of BT Accelerator
- Karen Isaac - BT Account Manager for EXFO

It takes place on Tuesday 21 May 2019, 9.30am - 11.30am at Adastral Park, Ipswich.

Numbers are strictly limited, so make sure you don't miss out **by booking your space now.**

This follows the success of a previous knowledge sharing event, titled 'Company Credibility – Smoke and mirrors or the real deal?' held in February, which provided attendees with an overview over key issues faced by anyone planning to build a public image for their company and establish confidence in potential customers and partners. Innovation Martlesham is an established cluster of high-tech ICT companies, located at Adastral Park. Besides being home to a diverse range of large, medium and small companies, Innovative Martlesham is a 'collaborative ecosystem' for technology companies.

It provides physical office accommodation and a virtual membership called the Business Club to support the demand from businesses and hosts networking opportunities and events, has a Business Support Function and a Mentor Group and an ICT Business Incubator and Accelerator.

## **Volunteers for community clean up – thank you!**

Lowestoft residents were encouraged to help clean up the streets by taking part in a 'community clean-up' event taking place later this week.

In April, a 'Town Centre Spring Clean' took place in Lowestoft organised by the East Suffolk Communities Team in partnership with Lowestoft Rising, Lowestoft Town Council, East Suffolk Norse, Community Action Suffolk and Lowestoft Vision. Volunteers met at the town centre entrance to the Britten Centre at 8.45am to help litter pick the local area, supported by local business

representatives, community groups and Norse staff, who also be tackled chewing gum and graffiti where possible as part of street cleansing work. In addition, benches in the town centre were repainted and planters refreshed.

Volunteers were required for this clean up - litter picking equipment provided. If you can spare some time to help in the future, please contact Rachel Tucker on 01502 523111 or [rachel.tucker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.tucker@eastsuffolk.gov.uk).

### **Help develop East Anglia's fishing strategy**

The Renaissance of the East Anglia Fisheries (REAF) partnership is asking local people in the fishing industry to help develop a long-term strategy for the area.

The REAF project is a partnership between East Suffolk Council, Norfolk County Council, Suffolk County Council, Lowestoft Fish Market Alliance and Seafish. Peter Aldous MP has been instrumental in establishing and supporting the partnership's objectives at the local, regional and national level.

REAF was founded on the belief that the local fishing industry and the coastal communities in East Anglia should be able to enjoy the benefits of the rich fisheries in the area.

The aim of the project is to develop a long-term strategy for East Anglia's fishing industry, with Lowestoft as the main regional hub and explore how economic and social benefits of the fishing industry can be captured and optimised locally and regionally.

June Mummary from Lowestoft Fish Market Alliance said: "The support we have received from the MMO, Seafish, East Suffolk Council and a tumultuous number of people from across the fishing industry has been terrific. This work will give the East Anglian fishing community a real shot in the arm and we really hope as many fishers participate in this work as possible to drive the future of the fishing industry forward."

The project will be delivered over a three stage process:

1. Gather information and data to analyse the current situation and speak to local people in the industry to get their views;
2. Look at different options to determined what can be done to improve the fishing opportunities, including bringing more jobs to the region and revitalise the industry;
3. Finally, create a clear plan to deliver the necessary changes needed in East Anglia.

REAF has successfully applied to Marine Management Organisation for a European Maritime and Fisheries Fund grant, which is now in place and Vivid Economics have been appointed to help prepare the long-term strategy.

The strategy will cover all sectors within the fishing industry – from catching the fish at sea and fish farming to retail and restaurants. It will also include markets, merchants, trading, transport, ports and other infrastructure, services, storage and processing.

REAF believes that it is important to understand all aspects of the fishing industry properly in order to deliver a strong strategy, so it will also include associated businesses such as handlers, vessel repairs, electrical services and equipment suppliers.

Paul Wood, Head of Economic Development and Regeneration at East Suffolk Council, said “We hope this work will be a real game changer for the future of the fishing industry across East Anglia and urge everyone with an interest in the future of the industry to get in touch with us.”

There are a number of different ways in which you could be involved, from commenting on proposals and offering ideas via email and social media to participating in interviews and attending workshops. If you would like to know more or get involved in the REAF project, contact East Suffolk Council on 03330 162000 or email [reif@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:reif@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

### **Felixstowe Museum all set for new 2019 season**

On a beautiful Easter Sunday the Mayor of Felixstowe, Councillor Graham Newman, cut the ribbon to officially open Felixstowe Museum for the 2019 season. He also chatted with Mr Alan Downard, a 100 year old Veteran who served with the 67th Medium Regiment and was stationed at Landguard Fort.

The Museum's new exhibitions for 2019 include a large display featuring Radio Caroline, a new exhibition showcasing the 1960s and a brand-new children's area with lots of dressing up clothes for children to try on. Housed within the Ravelin Block of the neighbouring Landguard Fort, Felixstowe Museum was once home to a submarine mining establishment. A real 'hidden' treasure - adults and children alike can discover all sorts of amazing stuff in fourteen different rooms, from costumes and model planes, to fossils and toys.

Please come and visit!

*Opening times can be found on the Felixstowe Museum website or by calling 01394 674355 (answerphone) or emailing [felmuseum@btopenworld.com](mailto:felmuseum@btopenworld.com)*

### **New beach huts for sale in Felixstowe**

More people are being given the chance to enjoy the unique ‘beach hut experience’ in Felixstowe – with sale of new beach huts at The Dip.

Three new huts are now on site and available to buy at the cost of £18,000 at The Dip on Cliff Road, Felixstowe, by East Suffolk Council. They are the first

brand new sites to be offered by the local authority in this area for many years and are situated in a prime sea view location in Old Felixstowe.

In the long term, East Suffolk Council, which is the landowner and runs the beach hut and chalet service, hopes to create more new beach hut sites across the District. The Dip area has space for 17 beach hut sites. Of these, one is being reserved for the exclusive use of the windsurfing club and another will be used by an existing beach hut owner relocating to The Dip, so in total 15 new beach huts could eventually come on to the market.

East Suffolk Council is committed to making beach huts more accessible to a wider range of people. These new huts at the Dip are accessible and represent a fantastic opportunity for people to enjoy the unique beach hut experience in Felixstowe. The two main drivers of the beach hut review were to improve 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. The creation of new sites will provide additional funds to the council, thus reducing the burden on the East Suffolk tax payer.

East Suffolk Council owns over 900 beach hut sites in Felixstowe. The beach hut programme aims to deliver new huts in a number of locations in Suffolk Coastal. Phase 1 of this programme was the identification of the 17 new hut sites at The Dip, Felixstowe, which received planning permission in autumn 2018.

There is a good access to this area from the public highway and the huts will be sited close to the sea front promenade. The huts would be of the same standard size, design and construction as existing huts in the area. The approved planning application also allowed ESC to build a new car parking area on the land adjacent to the boatyard, which has space for a small number of vehicles allowing water sport enthusiasts to unload their equipment and provide easy access to the beach.

Full details of the new beach huts for sale can be found on the Scott Beckett Estate Agents website.

### **Could you be a Plastic Action Champion?**

Volunteers were asked to step forward to help their local community take a smart approach to plastic waste by joining a new network of Plastic Action Champions.

The scheme aims to encourage more people to learn about their environmental impact, take action to reduce it and spread the word on environmental issues.

Jane Healey, Chair of the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum: “Few of us will have failed to notice the problems plastics cause for our environment and ecosystems when they escape into nature particularly in coastal communities like ours. I would urge anyone who wants to tackle the impact of plastic on nature by helping others make positive changes, to become a Plastic Action Champion.”

The role of a Champion includes volunteering in their local community for a minimum of 20 hours annually. This can include reaching out to local community groups and businesses, exhibiting at local events, blogging about relevant topics, and organising litter picks and surveys.

If you are trying your best to be 'plastic clever' and want to help others do the same by volunteering to be a Plastic Action Champion, please email [greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:greenissues@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

There are growing numbers of concerned members of the community who are already acting by avoiding single use plastics in their own daily lives and / or taking part in community litter efforts to remove pollution from the environment, and we applaud all who are already involved to reduce the environmental impact of their consumption of plastics and help make our district a greener and healthier place.

The scheme is part of the Greenprint's ongoing Plastic Action campaign which is part funded by the East Suffolk Partnership and the Suffolk Coast & Heaths AONB Sustainable Development Fund.

The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network open to all and facilitated by the District Council. It aspires to improve the quality of life in the District while reducing the impact on the environment.

### **Hi-tech assistance for EU citizens**

East Suffolk Council is stepping in to help EU residents in the District as the United Kingdom prepares to leave the European Union.

EU, EEA and Swiss citizens now have to apply to the EU Settlement Scheme to continue living in the UK after 30 June 2021 and to support EU citizens in east Suffolk through the process, the Council has been registered as a Home Office Biometric Centre allowing us to assist residents with the online application process.

The Council is also offering support to local businesses by taking the digital checking service on-site. This is especially useful for big companies who may have a high percentage of EU staff who will benefit from the service. If you have a business and want to get involved, please email [economicdevelopment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:economicdevelopment@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)

We know that there has been a lot of uncertainty since the referendum, not least for EU citizens who now have to apply for the EU Settlement Scheme to remain in the UK after we leave. We value all our residents which is why East Suffolk Council wants to assist EU citizens the best we can with the process of applying for the new Scheme.

East Suffolk Council can help residents complete the online application form as well as confirm and submit the supporting documents. This service is available by referral from the Home Office only and we are not able to assist with applications without a referral.

For more information: <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families>

We can also assist in the digital part of the application process, meaning that residents can complete the process online, but do the digital checking service via the Council. This service does not require a referral. Please contact Customer Services on 0333 016 2000 and ask for immigration services for more information.

### **Asset Divestment/Disposal**

Two Play Areas, Felixstowe – As part of our on-going Enabling Communities agenda, we are transferring two play areas to Felixstowe Town Council. Allenby Park and Ferry Road/Gosford Way Park were historically acquired by the Council through Section 106 Agreements. The proposal is to transfer the freehold of two parks to the Town Council, subject to the imposition of a covenant restricting their use to the current recreational use. Under the terms of the leases the Town Council will be responsible for all future grounds maintenance and play equipment maintenance costs. The transfer of these parcels of land meets the Council’s Business Plan objective to “Empower local town and parish councils by continuing to transfer amenity and community assets to them with their agreement”.

### **East Suffolk MyGo Youth Employment Service**

Young people not engaged in employment, education or training (NEET) continue to be a challenge within Suffolk generally and East Suffolk in particular relative to the country as a whole. As part of East Suffolk’s twin objectives of supporting economic growth and enabling communities it is imperative that we continue to address this problem by supporting young people to access employment, education and training opportunities. This is of benefit to the individual, local employers and the families and communities within which these young people live. This paper sets out the current issues and proposes an initiative to tackle these. The purpose of the paper was to gain approval for East Suffolk, in partnership with Suffolk County Council, to procure a service that will proactively support young people to become positively engaged within the local economy.

### **Adoption of the Private Sector Housing Strategy and Associated Policies**

In 2017, the Council adopted the East Suffolk Housing Strategy which set out joint ambitions for Housing, across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney. This high level strategy provides the overarching framework for all housing services. The Private Sector Housing Strategy is the more detailed review and plan for this service area. It identifies the challenges facing the sector, identifies what we have achieved to date and specific actions detailing how we will deliver solutions to the most pressing issues between now and 2023.



## **Man charged over two incidents of fly-tipping**

A man was found guilty of two incidents of illegal fly-tipping in East Suffolk, having been paid to remove waste by unsuspecting residents. A male appeared at Great Yarmouth Magistrates' having been charged by East Suffolk Council and pleaded guilty to both offences, as well as a third offence of failing to supply information.

A large quantity of household waste comprising furniture, cardboard boxes, clothing and personal effects was reported as being dumped on public land at Wood Lane in Camps Heath. Officers from East Suffolk Norse (formerly Waveney Norse) investigated and found letters addressed to a property in Lowestoft. When interviewed, the householders named the male as the person they had paid to remove waste from their shed and garden.

A second quantity of household waste, mainly black sacks, furniture, plastic and cardboard boxes was reported as being dumped on private land at Border Lane, Ashby. Again, Norse officers attended the site and found letters addressed to a property in Gorleston. The occupants of this property named the person who had arranged for waste to be removed from their premises, at a cost of £60.

When interviewed, he admitted visiting the property in Lowestoft three times to remove waste. He claimed he had taken two trips to the Household Waste Recycling Centre and then after his third visit to the house, he lent his van to a friend. It was claimed that a friend must have fly-tipped the rubbish without his knowledge. However, he refused to name his friend and was therefore also charged with failure to provide details of the person he lent his van to.

The Court ordered undertake 240 hours of unpaid work over 12 months, reduced to 160 hours following the guilty plea.

There is no excuse for fly-tipping in our beautiful countryside and we will always take action to find those responsible for incidents such as these. Whilst we would have preferred a stronger penalty reflective of the large amount of waste dumped. Householders also have a 'duty of care' to ensure their waste is disposed of properly and to retain details of anyone taking waste from their property on their behalf. For both of these incidents, the householders were able to name the person who had removed their waste.

Householders should always ask for details of the identity of any person removing waste on their behalf, as well as details of the vehicle used and check that the person is an authorised waste carrier. Failure to carry out these checks can unfortunately result in a prosecution if waste is found to have been fly-tipped.

More information about the householder's duty of care is available here :  
<http://www.greensuffolk.org/assets/Recycling/Flytipping/Advice-to-Householder.pdf>

You can check whether someone is a registered waste carrier here :

<https://environment.data.gov.uk/public-register/view/search-waste-carriers-brokers>

Fly-tipping can be reported online here. : <https://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/fly-tipping/how-to-report-fly-tipping/>

### **Much-needed parking boost for Woodbridge**

The project at Station Road car park provides an extra 50 parking spaces, speed humps and new bike racks. Woodbridge is becoming more popular and we had repeated calls from local businesses and the Town Council to provide more parking for visitors and shoppers. There are still a few finishing touches to complete, but the car park is open and we hope that the changes will provide easier parking for everyone in the town.

The first phase of the project started in November 2018 with the closure of The Avenue car park. An extra 13 parking spaces were created as well as new bike racks and the car park reopened to the public in January 2019.

### **Only rain down the drain**

A local anti-pollution project has been praised for its efforts to remind people not to drop waste in drains. Groundwork Suffolk and East Suffolk Council have been working together on a short “Yellow Fish” anti-pollution project on behalf of the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum to engage with residents, businesses and schools in Felixstowe, Woodbridge and Lowestoft. The campaign was designed to raise awareness of the importance of not allowing litter or waste to enter the surface water drainage system and how we can all do our bit to prevent our waste polluting our aquatic environments.

The project told a clear message of ‘Only Rain Down The Drain!’ and saw public drains in Felixstowe and Lowestoft marked with a temporary Yellow Fish symbol as a reminder that surface water drains, including road gullies, are only designed to carry rainwater, usually directly to natural watercourses unlike the foul water system that feeds into the sewage treatment works. Any waste entering the surface water drains can end up polluting our watercourses harming fish and other wildlife.

We are really pleased at how well the campaign has been received by businesses and communities in the three towns and thank them for their support for this important message to take care whether at home, at work, or while out and about to prevent our activities from polluting our watercourses and endangering wildlife and make our environment greener and healthier for residents and visitors too.

It's so easy to help – for example, if you use wet wipes or cotton buds or smoke cigarettes (which all usually contain plastics), whilst out and about always put them in a litter bin when you have finished with them or if there is no litter bin, take them home and put them in your non-recyclable rubbish bin.

David Spark, Project and Development Manager at Groundwork East, added: “Groundwork is proud to be working alongside East Suffolk Council and local community organisations on the Yellow Fish campaign. The joy of Yellow Fish is that it demonstrates how small individual actions can have a powerful collective impact. ‘Only Rain Down the Drain’ improves the quality of our aquatic environment from chemical and plastic pollutants and makes our streets look cleaner. An all-round winner!”

For more information about the scheme, go to [www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/east/pages/yellow-fish](http://www.groundwork.org.uk/Sites/east/pages/yellow-fish)

To find out how you can reduce, reuse, recycle and dispose of a wide range of everyday household items and materials, visit: <https://suffolkrecycling.org.uk/a-z-of-recycling>

The East Suffolk Greenprint Forum is a voluntary network open to all and facilitated by the district council, aspiring through community environmental action to improve our quality of life and living standards whilst reducing our impact on the environment.

To find out more, or to join the network, visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/) or follow on Facebook: [www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum](http://www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum)

**Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government External Funding to Prevent Homelessness** - The Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 requires Suffolk Coastal to develop and provide enhanced, tailored housing pathways for groups of people that maybe more vulnerable to homelessness than others (i.e. people with mental health issues, victims of domestic abuse, former prisoner and care leavers). The Government has acknowledged that these extra duties will require additional resources if local authorities are to fulfil them. The Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) has invited local authorities to apply for grant funding to address some of the gaps in homelessness service provision.

### **£455,000 Boost for Affordable Homes in Bawdsey**

One of the last decisions made by Suffolk Coastal District Council was for its Cabinet to award a £455,000 grant to the newly formed Peninsula Villages Community Land Trust (PVCLT).

The money is to support the PVCLT to achieve its vision of providing affordable homes in the area, by purchasing four affordable homes in Bawdsey for rent to people with a local connection. The representatives from Parishes on the Peninsula have worked together for over a year to set up a Community Land

Trust – an organization dedicated to tackling the lack of affordable homes for local people in the coastal villages. With help and guidance from Suffolk Coastal, the Trust has been able to make tremendous progress and it is now at the stage where it can offer tangible help to local people needing affordable homes.

PVCLT is working with Crocus Homes to purchase their first four affordable homes on a site in School Lane Bawdsey. Once built, the homes will be managed by Orwell Housing Association on behalf of the PVCLT.

### **The 2019 Tourism Season was officially launched in Visit Felixstowe**

Around 70 tourism-related businesses, organisations and individuals from Felixstowe joined together at the historic Harvest House to officially launch the new 2019 tourism season in the seaside town.

Held as part of English Tourism Week representatives from attractions, accommodation providers and event organisers were in attendance. There was delicious refreshments provided by Harvest House and live music from the 'Champagne Trio' of Music in Felixstowe.

The five shortlisted nominees for the Visit Felixstowe Tourism Award 2019 - which is a celebration of the past year were also announced. These are the Felixstowe & Walton United Football Club, Ocean Boulevard, Felixstowe parkrun, Felixstowe Book Festival and The Orwell Hotel

We are so overwhelmed by the support of this third launch event. 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 2019. 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 on [felixstowe.forward@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:felixstowe.forward@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

### **Seafront regeneration projects progressing well**

Work to regenerate Lowestoft's South Beach and seafront area is progressing well, with several key projects now underway.

Working with Waveney District Council (East Suffolk) Hemingway Design developed a vision highlighting the regeneration opportunities that the seafront presents. The seafront, in particular the South Beach, is the main tourist attraction for the town with the award-winning beach providing a huge draw to the majority of the 1.2m visitors who come here each year. Through new facilities, events and attractions, there is potential to broaden and enhance the visitor experience and encourage visitors to spend the day, or longer.

One of the main projects from the seafront vision was the creation of a brand new festival for Lowestoft, celebrating the town's most easterly location. The First

Light Festival, a free 24-hour multi-arts festival will take place in June on the South Beach. The festival, celebrating Lowestoft's position as the first place that sun rises in the UK, will begin at noon on Saturday 22 June and will run continuously through changing tides, light and darkness, sun and stars until noon on Sunday 23 June. [firstlightfestival.com](http://firstlightfestival.com)

Another project, to introduce new signage along the seafront, was completed in 2018. New 'wayfinding' signs were installed early last year, encouraging visitors to explore the seafront and the surrounding destinations from Pakefield to Ness Point.

Refurbishments are also underway on the former lifeguard station on the promenade near to Children's Corner. Before being used as a lifeguard station, this 1930s shelter enabled people to sit and enjoy unspoilt views of the coast. When complete, the shelter will once again provide a space for visitors and the community to enjoy, and to take pride in. As part of the regeneration plans, we also want to make greater use of the public spaces along the seafront, such as the Royal Plain and Royal Green. These spaces could be enhanced to allow more seasonal events, food and street markets, and summer evening events which accord with the licence for the public space.

A number of redevelopment options are being discussed for the East Point Pavilion. To help make our seafront a lively visitor destination, we're looking for bold and exciting new concession providers for the 2019 season and beyond. As well as street food and drink vendors, we're looking for people interested in providing water sports, children's activities, deckchair hire, outdoor sports and exercise classes, artists and more. We're also open to ideas and so if you have a unique business that you feel would attract people to the seafront, please get in touch via [www.lowestoftsouthbeach.co.uk/commercial-opportunities](http://www.lowestoftsouthbeach.co.uk/commercial-opportunities)

### **A Special Meeting of Cabinet**

The special meeting considered Suffolk Coastal response to two high-profile important consultations which were held:: East Anglia One North and East Anglia Two Offshore Windfarms Phase 4 - Consultation from Scottish Power Renewables Sizewell C Stage 3 Public Consultation

### **Enabling Broadband Programme Board Update.**

Under this programme, the Council had allocated funding to fund wireless broadband provision in order to cover those 2% of properties across the District that won't benefit from the Suffolk Better Broadband scheme - these properties will be predominantly be in rural areas.

### **Community groups help keep East Suffolk clean**

The winners of a prize draw held as part of a community litter pick scheme in East Suffolk have been announced. Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils are keen to encourage, enable and reward people to show more love for the

environment we live in. As part of the 'Love East Suffolk' scheme, community groups have a winning way of cleaning up their neighbourhood while helping themselves. Last year, a total of 94 litter picks was carried out in Suffolk Coastal by 1,928 volunteers and 38 litter picks was carried out in Waveney by 836 volunteers. Community groups that took part between 1 March and 31 May 2018 were entered into a prize draw with the chance to win £200 for the benefit of the community and the winners have now been drawn. Suffolk Coastal's prize draw winners are Martlesham Parish Council, Wickham Market Village Volunteer Group, Knodishall PC, Chediston & Linstead PC and 1st Old Felixstowe Guides. The rewards are funded through the Councils' partners, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Norse. Equipment can be supplied to groups on request and will also arrange for gathered litter to be collected. Litter pick sticks, bag hoops, and green vests can also be loaned out, subject to availability. To register a community litter pick at any time, please visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/litter](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/litter)

### **Film industry generates £3.8 million for Suffolk's economy**

Suffolk's economy has benefitted from at least £3.8 million of additional investment because of work to attract film makers to the county, a new report has revealed.

Screen Suffolk, an organisation set up in 2016 by councils in the county and funded by the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders group, actively markets hundreds of Suffolk locations to the filmmaking industry, as well as connecting them to local crews, hotels and restaurants and film services. Research by Screen Suffolk has looked at spend by film production companies and crews during shoots. It estimates that an average filming day will generate at least £11,500 of spend in the local community – equivalent to £3,864,000 in the first 24 months of operation. Creative England, the government body for film locations in the UK, estimates that crews spend three times this figure - £35,000 a day.

Films and shows shot in Suffolk in the past two years include:

- \* The Detectorists for BBC 4, shot in Framlingham and Suffolk County Council's headquarters in Ipswich
- \* Escape to the Country for Channel 4, shot in Sudbury and Wickhambrook
- \* The Child in Time for BBC 1, shot in Shingle Street
- \* Countryfile for BBC 1, shot in Walberswick
- \* Landscape Artist of the Year for Sky Arts, shot in Felixstowe at Landguard Point
- \* The Crown for Netflix, shot at Elveden Hall
- \* Fearless for ITV, shot at Bentwaters Park

### **Top food safety ratings for local businesses**

More East Suffolk businesses have been awarded a Food Hygiene Rating of 5 - the highest level possible.

Inspections by the Council's Food and Safety Team saw over 220 local businesses receiving Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) ratings of '5/very good', highlighting their dedication to hygiene and excellent approach to food safety. The Food Hygiene Rating Scheme (FHRS) helps customers make an informed choice about where to eat by highlighting restaurants, pubs and cafés with excellent food hygiene. Food

businesses can display their black and green FHSR sticker advertising their current food safety rating, which gives customers an immediate insight into the kitchen and shows how seriously the business takes food hygiene.

Customers are encouraged to check food hygiene ratings when choosing where to eat by looking for the FHSR sticker before ordering food. The ratings of over 440,000 food businesses can also be checked online. To help businesses ensure that employees are appropriately trained, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils jointly run a nationally recognised training course, the Level 2 Award in Food Safety in Catering.

### **Council to invest £3.4m in Bungay Leisure Centre redevelopment**

A multi-million pound investment programme to transform Bungay Pool & Gym has been approved. Councillors agreed to invest £3.4m in the site, creating an attractive, updated and modern leisure facility, which will include a new sauna, changing area including individual cubicles with showers, an air-conditioned poolside viewing area and re-decoration throughout. With the centre becoming somewhat tired and outdated, the council has listened to customers and a project has been developed with the Council's Development Partners, Pulse Design & Build.

The work is due to commence in September, and will take approximately 10 months to complete, with full re-opening due for the summer of 2020. The Council's operating partner, Sentinel Leisure Trust, will be supporting the Council and Pulse Design and Build with the close down and reopening of the facility.

When the facility re-opens it will be renamed as the Waveney Valley Leisure Centre. If you would like to be

### **Funding boost for Leiston**

Leiston received a financial boost to roll out new information points for visitors and residents. Leiston Town Council, in partnership with Leiston Together, has been granted £43,850 from the Coastal Revival Fund, to create information points for visitors and residents in the heart of the town.

Coincidentally, the building adjoining Leiston Film Theatre, both owned by the Town Council, recently became vacant and it was decided that the ground floor space would be used to extend the theatre's foyer, so the new information points can be located in the popular venue.

We are really excited about this development which means that we can create a central point for visitors and residents to find all the information they need - something that has been on our agenda for quite some time. Tourism is an important part of our local economy and we are now able to offer visitors a information point where they can find everything they need to make the most of their visit to this beautiful part of Suffolk. The central location also means that it is

a great opportunity to create a community information point where residents can easily get all the relevant community news and information in one place.

John Rayner, Leiston Town Clerk, said:

“Leiston Film Theatre has over 30,000 visitors each year, many of them tourists, so this is the perfect location for the new information points.”

Work to complete the project has already started, with the ground floor wall between the two buildings having been knocked down to expand the theatre’s foyer. The project is expected to be completed and running by late spring / early summer – just in time for the holiday season.

Visitors and residents can also visit [www.visit-leiston.co.uk](http://www.visit-leiston.co.uk) to find information such as events, accommodation, food and drinks, shops and more.

### **Software to transform management of rent arrears**

The Council has invested in new predictive software to transform the way housing rent accounts are managed and further support tenants in rent arrears.

Traditionally, the Council’s Rent Officers would need to manually review rent accounts for arrears, which was both time-consuming and inefficient. The new Mobysoft Rentsense software analyses all rent accounts and recommends approximately 200 accounts each week which may need to be examined by Rent Officers. The software also provides an explanation as to why a particular account has been marked as needing attention, reducing the time needed to check each account.

By studying payment patterns, the software can also predict how and when a tenant typically pays their rent. For example, if a tenant usually pays their rent within 3 days of when their payment is due, the software will not immediately mark that account as needing attention once the payment date has passed. Should the tenant not pay once the 3 days has passed, the account will be flagged for review. The new software will give officers earlier knowledge about tenants who are in rent arrears and ensure they are supported to prevent them from getting into further arrears.

Tenants who may be struggling with their rent are advised to contact their Rent Officer as soon as possible: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/rent-and-rent-arrears](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/rent-and-rent-arrears).

### **Community organisations were invited to Beccles event**

Organisations supporting health and wellbeing in the Beccles area were invited to attend a free event to showcase their services and find out more about working together to support vulnerable and isolated people.

The East Suffolk Communities Team held a ‘Live Well’ event, aimed at bringing together local voluntary and community organisations supporting health and wellbeing amongst older people. Organisations working in Beccles and the



surrounding area were invited to attend the event and meet with other organisations to identify opportunities for working together and find out how to reach more people within the Waveney area.

### **Helping hospital patients to get home**

The Council has received £87,000 in funding to support the 'Stepping Home' project. Stepping Home is a partnership project between the East Suffolk councils, Ipswich Borough Council, Suffolk County Council, Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils, East Suffolk and North Essex NHS Foundation Trust, Orwell Housing, British Red Cross and Lofty Heights and is supported by the Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group's Transformation Fund, which encourages groups in Suffolk to 'think outside the box' to find ways to reduce pressure on the health system in the county.

Working through Ipswich Hospital, officers from the Council's Warm Homes Healthy People team discovered patients are often unable to be discharged once medically fit due to their housing (known as a Delayed Transfer of Care, or DTOC). The patient could be awaiting adaptations such as a stair lift or ramps, a declutter, a home repair after a minor fire, flood or other reasons.

When a patient is medically fit, a hospital environment is not a suitable location. In a ward setting, they are at risk of infection, deconditioning, and being de-skilled. It is not uncommon for patients to be 'stuck' and unable to return home for several days or sometimes weeks and this also uses a bed which could be used by another patient.

### **Communities benefit from new developments**

Local communities in east Suffolk are seeing the benefit from new developments happening across the District. Since the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) scheme was introduced in east Suffolk, over £4.5 million has been collected from commenced and completed developments.

Of this, over £2.1 million has been distributed or earmarked to help deliver infrastructure projects to facilitate growth currently taking place across the District. In most circumstances it replaces or complements the traditional Section 106 process of securing developer contributions towards infrastructure.

Parish and Town Councils receive 15% of CIL funds which are collected from development in their area. A further 10% is available to the councils which have introduced the Neighbourhood Plan. So separately, a total of just over £700,000 has been paid to Parish and Town Councils in east Suffolk.

View more information about CIL please go to:  
[www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy/](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/community-infrastructure-levy/)

### **Takeaway businesses awarded for healthier choices**

A number of East Suffolk businesses celebrated after receiving a 'Take Out, Eat Well' award, which recognises takeaway businesses who work hard to provide healthier options to their customers.

The following businesses have recently been given the new award:

- A Piece of Cake – High Street, Lowestoft
- Beech Road Kebab and Pizza House - Rushmere St Andrew
- Bungay Kebab – St Mary's Street, Bungay
- Bushells Bakery – Hollingsworth Road, London Road South, Tennyson Road and Westwood Avenue, Lowestoft
- Flames – Bridge Road, Lowestoft
- Kessingland Kebab – High Street, Kessingland
- The Kingfisher – Snape Drive, Lowestoft
- Tracey's Baps – Cooke Road, Lowestoft

The Take Out, Eat Well scheme sits alongside the existing ['Eat Out, Eat Well' scheme](#) which was launched in 2016 in partnership between Suffolk County Council and the district councils. Both schemes support local businesses in making it easier for customers to buy healthier food and drinks. Businesses who apply will get a visit from the Councils' Environmental Health Officers who will inspect the premises and assess against criteria that are based on the principles of a healthy diet.

Customers are also advised to look for the 'Eat Out Eat Well' symbol when choosing where to eat.

### **Funding boost for local communities**

Local community groups have so far received a funding boost of over £126,000 this year - thanks to Suffolk Coastal.

The Enabling Communities Budget (ECB) was set up in December 2013 to support local projects and activities which benefit those living in the district. The funding programme was included in the East Suffolk Business Plan - a document which presents the key priorities for Suffolk Coastal in partnership with Waveney.

The budget has supported everything from new play areas, improvements to community buildings, charities that help the members of our communities, sports clubs and activities which cater to all ages. (see above)

One of the key priorities in our Business Plan is enabling communities to develop and deliver worthwhile schemes and projects to local people. This funding is an important contribution to that ambition. The scheme ensures that we are able to support the breadth of our district, including younger and older people, and get behind projects and activities that benefit our communities, protects our heritage and teaches crucial life skills.

### **Community to benefit from new country park**

Waveney District Council (East Suffolk Council) are the new owners of land in Oulton and it will be transformed into a country park for local residents to enjoy.

Ownership of the open space land at Woods Meadow was transferred to the Council as part of a planning agreement with Persimmon Homes, following nearby residential development.

As part of the 'Section 106 Agreement' arrangements, Persimmon Homes have contributed funding for the development and maintenance of the 50-acre park for the next ten years. We have been working with Oulton Parish Council and Persimmon Homes for some time to move this land into our ownership. This space, which will be managed by Waveney Norse on our behalf, will be available for the community to enjoy and we will be working closely with local residents, the primary school and the Parish Council to ensure this space meets their needs.

Brian Hunter, Chair of Oulton Parish Council said: "Oulton Parish Council welcomes the long awaited handover of the Woods Meadow 50 acre country park. The Parish Council will continue to play its part in encouraging local parishioners, equine users, the local school and environmental visitors to participate in consultations along with the newly proposed Park Warden to bring about a country park fit for purpose that everyone can visit and enjoy."

Waveney Norse will manage the park on behalf of East Suffolk Council through its Countryside Team and it is hoped that a Woods Meadow Friends Group will be established in future to support this maintenance. The first steps for the country park will be an initial wildlife survey and consultation with potential park users, including dog walkers, runners, cyclists and horse riders.

### **Photo competition winners announced**

The winners of the second East Suffolk Photo Competition were announced by the Council. The five-week long competition, which ran during August and early September, invited amateur and professional photographers to submit their photos to the Councils under four categories; living in East Suffolk, working in East Suffolk, explore East Suffolk and under 16s.

The entries were judged and we were once again overwhelmed by the amount and the quality of the entries, which all highlight the beauty of East Suffolk. It was incredibly difficult to choose between them all however we feel that the chosen winners really captured the spirit of the area. Thank you to everyone that took part.

### **Funding boost for boating lake regeneration**

Southwold Town Council, in partnership with the Southwold Coastal Community Team, was awarded £15,000 from the Coastal Revival Fund to develop a vision for the restoration and regeneration of Southwold Boating Lake.

The boating lake, which dates back to 1900 and is owned by Southwold Town Council, has provided a recreational destination for boating and model yachting

for generations. The model yacht lake, connecting lagoon and wildlife area are rich in biodiversity and present a unique opportunity for creating a sustainable tourism offer. Southwold's Coastal Community Team highlighted the importance of the boating lake as a heritage, tourism and wildlife area in their Economic Plan, which was published in June 2017.

### **Dog owners are reminded to clear up after their pets!**

Our district is a really dog friendly place and we know that most dog owners are responsible and clear up after their pets. There are a small number of inconsiderate people who feel the rules do not apply to them, but there is absolutely no excuse for failing to clear up after your dog. We want to ensure that all public areas are safe for everyone to enjoy and will not hesitate to take action against anyone who is found responsible for despoiling our environment.

The council introduced Public Space Protection Orders in January 2018 to tackle dog fouling across the district. Failure to clear up after a dog in your control could result in a fixed penalty notice of £80 being issued. Failure to pay the fixed penalty notice may lead to prosecution and a potential maximum fine of £1000. Suffolk Coastal has a statutory duty to keep public land clear of litter and refuse, including dog fouling and will take action against irresponsible individuals who fail to clear up after their dogs within a restricted area. Not only is dog fouling highly unpleasant, it is also a hazard to health.

### **Suffolk Coastal Steps in to Buy Strategic Leiston Property**

Suffolk Coastal District Council stepped in to buy a strategically significant parcel of property in central Leiston – to safeguard the local Neighbourhood Plan.

The property, just off Leiston's High Street, was due to come up for sale at auction. However, the site is integral to the delivery of the Leiston Neighbourhood Plan's 'vision' to revitalise the town centre, by creating a new 'hub' made up of community, commercial and residential uses. While the 'vision' to revitalise Leiston town centre does face some challenges, it is still being actively promoted and pursued by Leiston Town Council and ourselves. If the site had been sold to an owner, who was not willing to cooperate in the delivery of this vision, it would obviously have made any further progress on this initiative impossible. So, we stepped in to buy the land and safe guard these aspirations for the future.

### **Lowestoft's Community Fridge is a first for Suffolk**

A fresh initiative that aims to reduce food waste - a first of its kind in Suffolk – has been launched in the heart of the Lowestoft community. The 'Lowestoft Community Fridge', supported by the Suffolk Waste Partnership, Waveney District Council, The Morrisons Foundation and environmental charity Hubbub, is part of 'Food Savvy', a campaign to tackle the rising level of food waste in the region.

The Community Fridge, kindly donated by Lowestoft-based Hughes Electrical, will be based at St. Andrew's Church in Roman Road, Lowestoft. Local businesses, organisations and residents will be able to donate surplus food to the fridge where it can be collected by any local individual in order to increase a spirit of sharing locally.

The Morrisons Foundation, a charity set-up by the supermarket to provide grants for charity projects, made a donation to Hubbub as part of its larger initiative to provide Community Fridges throughout the UK. Thanks to donations like this, Hubbub is able to offer a free support network for any group setting up or running a Community Fridge, enabling the concept to flourish across the UK and beyond. Community Fridges are often so much more than a fridge, they provide a platform for food education activities and a space for communities to connect.

#FoodSavvy project aims to get people really thinking about the food they buy, eat and throw away. As a trailblazing first for Suffolk, the Lowestoft Community Fridge will help deliver these aims whilst supporting their local community. Hopefully this will inspire others to make a real difference in their own lives and businesses.

For more information about the Community Fridge Network, visit [www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge](http://www.hubbub.org.uk/the-community-fridge).

To learn more about the Food Savvy campaign, visit [www.foodsavvy.org.uk](http://www.foodsavvy.org.uk)

To learn more about the Lowestoft Community Capacity Project, visit [www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk](http://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk).

### **Mayor, MP and Councillors Present M&S Petition to Marks & Spencer Executive**

The Mayor Felixstowe, Cllr Graham Newman, Suffolk Coastal MP, Thérèse Coffey, Geoff Holdcroft and Tracey Green had a frank exchange of views with the Head of Public Affairs at Marks and Spencer, when they met in Parliament. They suggested that Felixstowe is a town on the rise and with jobs, population and investment all increasing in the town that it would be a mistake for M&S to close.

The Mayor of Felixstowe, Cllr Graham Newman and the others made a presentation to the Head of Public Affairs, Mr Ginty, on the importance of the store to the town and how popular it is with local residents and visitors who enjoy coming to Hamilton Road in Felixstowe to shop. They also formally handed over a petition signed by just under 7,000 individuals.

Mr Ginty then shared confidential financial information with the meeting to show how Marks & Spencer had made their assessment to close the store and suggested that having a store with a full offer of clothing, home and food was not viable.

Thank you to everyone who signed the petition.

### **Raising the profile of Lowestoft**

Representatives from local businesses, community groups and charities were asked for their ideas to raise the profile of Lowestoft.

Waveney District Council (ESC) working with thinkingplace, who specialise in developing strong identities for destinations across the UK and a dedicated workshop to gather views from local organisations about what makes Lowestoft special. Using experts to develop a clear identity and a 'story' for the town would help raise the profile of the area, encourage growth and investment and attract further visitors.

This reflects wider work taking place across the town by organisations such as Lowestoft Rising to raise aspirations and encourage people to take pride in where they live, as well as ongoing regeneration projects focusing on improving areas including the South Beach, the Historic High Street and Lowestoft Ness.

### **Helping learn about nature**

Local children's learning about nature has been given a boost, Susan Harvey, who represented the Kirton Ward, presented a cheque for £1,000 to the children and teachers of Trimley St Martin Primary School, which is the local school for Kirton and Falkenham children.

The funds, used to buy underwater cameras and nest box cameras for the Forest School. It is a lovely outdoor area which the children will really benefit from both physically and mentally. The money came from Susan's Enabling Communities Budget.

### **Older people in Beccles were invited to tea dance**

Following the success of previous intergenerational events held in East Suffolk, older residents from the Beccles were invited to a tea dance, organised by local young people. Students from Beccles Free School and the Sir John Leman High School held a Muncheon Mingle tea dance, with activities themed around ballroom dancing including a waltz lesson and quiz.

Our previous intergenerational events, which bring young and older members of the community together, have been a great success. Events such as this one offer an opportunity for older residents to get together and meet with friends, as well as enjoy the activities kindly provided by the students.

### **Neglected property to be brought back into use**

Thanks to the intervention of the Council, a neglected property which has been empty for more than 20 years will be refurbished and brought back into use.

The mid-terrace house in Lowestoft has been unoccupied since 1995 and as a result has fallen into disrepair. Officers from Waveney District Council's Private

Sector Housing Team have now purchased the building and it will be repaired, refurbished and made available to meet local housing need.

The Council works with the owners of empty properties to encourage them to bring them back into use where possible. Where this is not an option, the Council can opt for compulsory purchase, forced sale and occasionally may be able to provide financial support where funds are made available.

Having an empty home in poor condition adjoining your home could result in damage to your property such as dampness along the party wall. To report a property which you believe has been empty for more than 6 months, or to discuss options if you are the owner of an empty property, please contact 01502 523119 / [ps.housing@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:ps.housing@eastsoffolk.gov.uk).

### **Celebrating local grand designs**

Our very own grand designs were celebrated at an awards ceremony at East Suffolk House. The Quality of Place Awards recognises people's effort to add to the quality of our environment, by creating high quality designs in both the built and natural environment and helping to conserve our historic buildings. We received a real mix of entries of some very impressive schemes this year. The winners of the awards reflect both modern building designs and historic conversions that all add to the character of our district.

### **Free parking at festive events**

People attending festive events across east Suffolk enjoyed free parking in council-owned car parks at set times on selected dates. The Council once again supported local communities by offering free use of council-owned car parks to support Christmas events in the district.

Town and parish councils were also offered two sessions of 2-hours free parking slots on dates and times of their choosing - to be used to bolster festive events, such as late-night shopping, taking place in the run up to Christmas.

### **Celebrated our apprentices**

The East Suffolk Councils of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney have welcomed just shy of 100 apprentices to the organisation in six years and they recently celebrated the achievements of the latest 'in-take' with a special graduation ceremony. Working with the training provider, Nova Training, 14 young people completed their apprenticeship in 2018, with 10 now in full time roles within east Suffolk. This brings to 61 the number of people currently with the councils in either current apprenticeship roles or either permanent or fixed-term positions. Many have also gone on to get higher level qualifications – in Housing, Customer Services and leadership and management and the current crop have worked across a variety of teams – from Planning and Coastal Management to Communities, HR and IT.

### **Flushed with success**

The first stage of a wider project to give more people the unique 'beach hut experience' in Felixstowe was completed after £50,000 was invested in refurbishing the public toilets. Work to refurbish The Dip public conveniences were undertaken in a two-phase delivery project.

Phase one was completed ready for the 2018 summer season and included installation of new toilets, urinals, internal partitioning and new sanitary ware. Drainage and electrical supply was also reconfigured to accommodate the noticeable increase in usage for the area. Phase two commenced at the end of the summer season and focused on the external areas of the toilet block. Cement board cladding and external doors were installed as well as a defibrillator that was kindly donated by the Felixstowe Beach Hut and Chalet Association and fitted for free by Suffolk Coastal Norse.

Over £50,000 has been spent to improve these facilities, as part of the wider investment in Felixstowe and specifically in this area, which is also going to see the development of new beach hut sites and better car parking for watersport enthusiasts.

### **Suffolk wins praise at the national Community Energy Awards 2018**

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership has received a national award for supporting local communities to be more energy efficient. An expert panel of judges awarded the Local Authority Award to the Partnership for its close working with local organisations.

This includes exploring how organisations can be more energy efficient, helping to source funding, producing a community energy toolkit, providing technical support and investing in energy efficiency installations. In addition, over 120 community buildings have received in-depth advice and support to be more energy efficient.

The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is a collaboration of Suffolk County Council, all Suffolk's borough and district councils and The Environment Agency. It supports the county's communities, businesses and residents to reduce carbon emissions, realise the economic benefits of reducing energy consumption and adapt to the future impacts of climate change. Its work has brought in significant amounts of external funding to Suffolk, running highly-successful projects for its customers.

### **Ceremony offers opportunity for reflection**

Members of the local community attended a wreath-laying ceremony to commemorate Holocaust Memorial Day.



Cllr Frank Mortimer and Cllr Ian Graham, Mayor of Lowestoft will lay a wreath at Lowestoft Railway Station in memory of those killed in the Holocaust and the genocides in Cambodia, Rwanda, Bosnia and Darfur.

Representatives from Waveney Youth Council also laid a wreath on behalf of local young people. Holocaust Memorial Day offers an opportunity for reflection and remembrance of the millions who died during the Holocaust and in subsequent genocides. It also gives us the chance to learn from these terrible events and ensure they are never repeated.

### **Services of Remembrance across East Suffolk**

Commemorations marking the centenary of the end of the First World War took place across East Suffolk on and around 11 November. We helped to support people who want to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, by the Council offering free parking at every council-owned car park across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney for the entire day.

### **Phoenix Enterprise Park officially opens for business**

The site of the former Wessex Foods factory has been brought back to life as a new business and Enterprise Park for local businesses to grow and flourish as it celebrates its official opening today. With a project budget of £6.5million, the site occupies two acres of land and comprises of 17 business units of differing sizes.

### **Suffolk Coast DMO Conference goes from strength to strength**

The Suffolk Coast DMO (Destination Management Organisation) hosted its free annual conference as part of the East Suffolk Business Festival in November. The conference was attended by local tourism related businesses and organisations operating in the area from Felixstowe to Lowestoft and the surrounding inland towns and villages. Tourism is growing on the Suffolk Coast, 2017 Economic Volume and Value reports for Suffolk Coastal and Waveney Districts show the total value of tourism has increased by 6.6% and 5% on 2016 respectively, the industry now generates over £640m each year.

The 200 people registered for this year's Coastal Tourism Conference demonstrated the passion local businesses have for our tourism industry, undoubtedly, one of the main economic pillars of the region. Celebrating this growth, a full programme of content was on offer to everyone involved in tourism.

### **Debach community tackles speeding drivers**

Drivers in Debach were reminded to reduce their speed thanks to a new device funded by local businesses and Suffolk Coastal District Council.

A Speed Indicator Device (SID), which advises drivers if they are exceeding the speed limit and also captures speeding data, has now been installed in the

village. The SID was funded by kind donations from local companies and Suffolk Coastal District Council, through the Enabling Communities Budget.

### **Crucial Crew helps children keep safe**

Children in Suffolk Coastal were invited to learn more about safety in a fun and engaging environment. Crucial Crew taught year 6 pupils (10 – 11 years) about staying safe in their everyday life. Crucial Crew is supported by a number of partnership agencies including Suffolk Police, Suffolk Fire & Rescue Service, East Suffolk Communities Team, Suffolk County Council, Turning Point, Make a Chance Team and Onelife Suffolk, with funding raised by the Rotary District clubs.

It teaches children how to tackle the personal dangers they face and helps to prevent them from becoming involved in crime. The scheme raises their awareness in a fun and effective way so that they may be better equipped to increase their own and others safety.

### **Waveney roofing apprentices amongst best in country**

Two of Waveney District Council's roofing apprentices have been ranked amongst the best in the country as part of a national award scheme. Joe Burgess and Bradley Garner, who work within the Council's Building Maintenance team, were shortlisted for the Icopal Ltd Flat Roofing Apprentice of the Year 2018. They attended a gruelling two day final in Cirencester last month where they were put through their paces with other top roofing apprentices from around the UK. All the finalists completed two days of presentations and assignments which examined their ability to run their own roofing business and tested their business planning, presentation and technical skills. Each finalist also made an individual presentation to the judges, describing their motivation and future objectives in roofing.

### **Honour Run 2018 success**

The first ever Honour Run proved to be a great success when it took place in October in Rendlesham Forest. Around 250 walkers, joggers and runners of all ages took part in the run and raised a total of £2,600 for the Suffolk British Legion Poppy Appeal, which supports serving and ex-serving men and women in the armed forces. This was the first time we've put on this kind of event and it was a huge success. Thank you to everyone who took part in the run and all the volunteers who helped us run the event. We raised £2,600 for the Suffolk British Legion Poppy Appeal which is fantastic. The event was organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council and Suffolk British Legion with thanks going to the Forestry Commission and Rock Barracks who supported the event by letting us to use of the facilities.

### **Once again - Summer activities back for fifth year**

Local young people once signed up for the Council's popular programme of free children's activities, which returned to Lowestoft. Returning for a fifth consecutive summer, the activities are designed for children aged between nine and sixteen and

are organised by the East Suffolk Communities Team in partnership with Suffolk Positive Futures.

### **Deben Leisure Centre was officially opened**

The £3.5 million redevelopment of Deben Leisure Centre was marked by an official re-opening ceremony in October. The £3.5 million redevelopment is the first significant investment in the facility since a roof was added to the pool in 1984.

Thanks to the Council's Leisure Development Partners, Pulse Design and Build, our operators, Places Leisure and Sport England for the £500,000 grant to help fund the facility.

### **Leiston Leisure Centre and Fitness Boost for Local Academy**

The £3.5million refurbishment of Leiston Leisure Centre also gave a fitness boost to a local academy. Work began on Leiston Leisure Centre in September. As part of the refurbishment, the centre will get new, state-of-the-art leisure equipment.

However, the gym's current equipment was still high quality and has many years of use left in it, so Suffolk Coastal District Council donated it to the nearby Alde Valley Academy to bolster its ability to encourage youngsters to keep fit.

Suffolk Coastal and Alde Valley Academy have worked closely together in the past and we look forward to continue to do so in the future to improve the health of the community and the quality of facilities available. The academy's Physical Education team choose a mixture of mainly Techno Gym CV and fixed resistance equipment from the leisure centre, which has now been installed and is available for use by the students. This 'recycling' of the gym equipment to the local academy supports Suffolk Coastal's strategic aim of encouraging people of all ages in the District to live healthier lifestyles and become more active. The refurbished Leiston Leisure Centre has been designed with the Council's leisure development partner, Pulse Design & Build and operators, Places Leisure, to include a new spacious gym with modern equipment, and a new health suite by the pool area. The plans also include a high quality village style changing area by the pool. This will be family friendly with cubicles for parent and child, separate changing areas for groups, which can also be used by the public when empty and individual changing cubicles and showers.

The refurbishment is part of the Council's five year programme to improve leisure facilities for the district and encourage more people to become more active.

If you would like to stay up to date with the progress of the Leisure Programme, sign up to receive our regular newsletter by contacting [leisure@east Suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:leisure@east Suffolk.gov.uk)

### **We asked for your input and your say on the East Suffolk Area Parking Plan Consultation**

Across Suffolk, we are in the process of transferring power to enforce on-street parking from the police to local authorities. Ahead of taking on civil parking enforcement (CPE), the Department for Transport requires that enforcement authorities wishing to operate CPE need to provide evidence of our parking policies and strategies. Thank you to all those that contributed.

### **Derelict building transformed into housing**

A derelict Lowestoft property closed due to unsafe living conditions was transformed into affordable housing for single tenants.

Months of extensive renovation work at 560 London Road South have now been completed and the converted building was officially opened. The three storey property had previously been occupied as an unauthorised multiple-use dwelling and takeaway business which was closed due to substandard conditions. The Council purchased the property and in 2017, began works to bring the building back into use. In order to meet local need for quality accommodation for single people, the Council has transformed the building into the first council-owned 'house of multiple occupancy' (HMO) in East Suffolk. The scheme will house 6 tenants in private rooms with individual kitchens located within their rooms, with shared bathroom facilities and amenities. The property will be managed by the Council in partnership with Solo Housing who specialise in supporting single people to independence.

New legislation is in effect which requires landlords with properties with five or more occupiers, who are not related, to be licensed. Landlords are urged to submit their licensing applications before 1 October and anyone requiring further details is asked to contact the Council's Private Sector Housing team on 01394 444506 or visit [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/houses-in-multiple-occupation-hmos](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/houses-in-multiple-occupation-hmos)

### **Operation Camouflage, another success. (award winning)**

Children in Suffolk Coastal area were asked to put their best foot forward to have fun this summer at Operation Camouflage. The military-themed summer activity was back for the eleventh year running. The aim of the event, organised by the Council and the Army Welfare Service (AWS) with funding contributed by The Soldiers' Charity, was to bring young people from different backgrounds together to do challenges and learn new skills while having fun.

### **Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone success**

A project promoting the unique history of North Lowestoft was promoted as part of a national celebration of heritage. The Heritage Action Zone partnership, comprising Historic England, Lowestoft Town Council, the East Suffolk Building Preservation Trust and Waveney District Council, took part in national Heritage Open Days.

Designated as a Heritage Action Zone by Historic England in 2017, the North Lowestoft scheme aims to restore the town's historic character, improving the area for residents and boosting tourism over the next five years. A focal point is the Historic High Street, including the Scores and the Town Hall. The Heritage Action Zone project is funded through Historic England, with further match funding from Waveney District Council. A Programme Manager has also recently been appointed to deliver the work of the Heritage Action Zone partnership.

It has also been confirmed that Lowestoft Town Council, through the Heritage Action Zone partnership, has been awarded a grant of £42,000 from Historic England to enable emergency repairs to the Town Hall. The funding will also support a detailed condition survey of the building. The North Lowestoft Heritage Action Zone includes some of the oldest parts of the town. The area was originally the main medieval settlement, grown around the fishing industry, with merchants' housing and commercial premises lining the High Street on the clifftop, whilst the buildings associated with fishing, such as net stores and workers cottages were on the lower ground area by the sea.

Find out more at [www.historicengland.org.uk/LowestoftHAZ](http://www.historicengland.org.uk/LowestoftHAZ)

### **Suffolk geared up for top charity cycle ride**

Following the success of the OVO Energy Women's Tour in Suffolk earlier, amateur cyclists were invited to have the chance to sample much of the route themselves.

The event started and finished in Southwold, with cyclists taking on either a 30 or 80 mile route that combine roads that were being used for the opening stage of the OVO Energy Women's Tour with some that have been used in previous editions of the race – for example the beautiful coastal route from Thorpeness to Aldeburgh.

### **Seafront shelters returned to former glory**

Two shelters at Felixstowe's iconic seafront are back to their former glory after a £150,000 refurbishment. The timber shelters required a full refurbishment after suffering significant timber decay, vandalism and weather damage over the years, exacerbated by flooding during tidal surges. The well-loved shelters are situated within a prominent location on Felixstowe's south seafront and play an important role in supporting the tourism economy within the town. They were in a very poor condition, so it was a key priority for the Council to carry out the work needed to bring them back to their best. They now look fantastic and I hope that they will be enjoyed by residents and visitors alike.

The repair work was carried out by our partners, Suffolk Coastal Norse, who brought the project in on budget at £150,000. It was carefully planned to ensure the historic nature of the shelters were retained and sympathetic to their original character.

### **Dedication for Lowestoft woman killed in WW2**

A ceremony took place in dedication of a Lowestoft woman killed in the town during World War Two. On 13 January 1942, 71 people were killed in the 'Waller's Raid' – a devastating air raid which saw four bombs dropped on London Road North in the town centre. Many shops were destroyed or seriously damaged, including R Waller and Sons restaurant where many of the victims were at the time of the raid and the former Marks and Spencer store.

Amongst those killed in the raid was 26 year old Gladys May Wright (nee Bull), who lived at Wollaston Road and worked at Marks and Spencer. Gladys, who had recently married, was acting as a warden and was trying to get staff and customers to safety at the rear of the store. Clive Rougier, who works at Marks and Spencer, worked with Waveney Norse to organise today's ceremony and arranged for a permanent headstone to be placed at Lowestoft Cemetery where Gladys is buried with her brother Jack. The stone was funded by Marks and Spencer and provided by Broadland Memorials.

The ceremony was attended by Gladys' relatives, representatives from Marks and Spencer including Clive Rougier and members of the Jack Rose Old Lowestoft Society who assisted Clive with historical information.

### **Tackling dementia in young people**

Our residents were invited to work with Suffolk Mind to help tackle early onset dementia. Suffolk Mind is launching a new service to support people in Suffolk who have traits or a diagnosis of young onset dementia. Figures suggest that those who live with the condition may be up to 6-9% of all people with dementia. Overall in Suffolk, it is estimated that 12,800 people are living with dementia.

### **Felixstowe Seafront Gardens win another prestigious award**

Felixstowe Seafront Gardens was awarded a Green Flag Award for the third year running and is officially one of the best parks in the world. A record number of parks and green spaces in the UK will be flying the Green Flag this year, and the gardens sit among 1,883 others who have received the award.

We have spent a lot of time and money restoring the gardens, so they can be enjoyed by locals and tourists alike, and it is great to see it being recognised for being of the very highest quality. Particular congratulations should go to the Friends of Felixstowe Seafront Gardens and Suffolk Coastal Norse, whose continued hard work ensures that the gardens are maintained and looking their very best.

### **Waveney Youth Council joins campaign to stop pipe blockages**

Young people from Lowestoft joined in a campaign to help reduce the misery, cost, bad smells, potential flooding and pollution caused by avoidable pipe blockages. Community charity Groundwork Suffolk, which supports Anglian Water's 'Keep It Clear' programme, gave a talk to Waveney Youth Council on how to protect our rivers, wildlife and the environment by keeping the sewer

system clear from blockages. 40,000 blockages occur in Anglian Water's network each year and two-thirds are caused by build-ups of fat, oil, grease, waste food, sanitary items and wipes. These items are often not disposed of correctly and instead, are being flushed down toilets or put down sinks.

Cllr Alison Cackett said: "It is great to see the students supporting this important campaign and helping to raise awareness amongst their friends, families and in the wider community of the importance of disposing of waste in the correct way."  
[www.keep-it-clear.co.uk](http://www.keep-it-clear.co.uk)

### **East Suffolk hosted "first ever business festival"**

Local businesses were invited to attend the first ever East Suffolk Business Festival. The inaugural East Suffolk Business Festival featured a packed 10 day programme of business support and training events. The festival, organised by the Council, aimed to raise the profile of the East Suffolk business community and create opportunities for businesses to connect with each other, grow their business and create new employment for the local area.

### **Bringing the generations together in Felixstowe**

Following the success of similar intergenerational events held in East Suffolk, older residents from the Felixstowe area were invited to an event run by local young people. Children from Fairfield Infant School, Colneis Junior School, Kingsfleet Primary School and Felixstowe Academy joined in at the Orwell Hotel in Felixstowe, providing activities for older members of the local community and celebrating the past, present and future of the town. The Council supports Intergenerational events, which bring older and younger people together, help to build relationships within communities and tackle social isolation and loneliness which can be detrimental to the health and wellbeing of our older residents.

### **Official hand over of Beccles Quay**

Representatives from the Council, Beccles Town Council, the Beccles Fenland Charity Trust, Waveney Norse, Broadsbeat and other local organisations celebrated the official 'hand over' of Beccles Quay. The Quay is now owned by Beccles Fenland Charity Trust - with the Town Council the sole trustee - and is the result of close working between Waveney District Council, Beccles Town Council, the Charity Commission, the Fenland Charity Trust and the Land Registry to aid the transfer of the Quay which, due to a historical anomaly, had been incorrectly registered to Waveney District Council since 1974.

### **Consultation on New Dog Controls – we asked for your input**

The Council asked local people if they wanted us to implement a series of new dog control orders. In recent months, the Council has introduced a number of Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). These have been largely to replace existing byelaws across the district. However, a number of communities, through their Town and Parish Councils, asked us to consider introducing additional dog

controls within their areas. Before any decision on this issue, the Council asked for the views of local people through a 6-week public consultation. We have a legal duty to consider these requests and also consult with the wider public.

### **Formal backing for Lowestoft's Third Crossing**

The government authority responsible for overseeing projects of national importance has started its examination into Suffolk County Council's proposed Lake Lothing Third Crossing project in Lowestoft. Once complete, the crossing will bring many benefits to the area, such as reducing congestion in the town and improving connections between the north and south of Lowestoft. The road network will be able to operate more efficiently, and the iconic design of the bridge presents the opportunity to introduce a new focal point for the town, enhancing its identity. It will also help to regenerate the area and attract new investment for the local economy.

### **Beach Café proposal was submitted for Martello Park**

A planning application for a proposed exciting development in the heart of Felixstowe South Seafront was submitted. The proposal set out plans for a new beach café in the Martello Park, the design of which will be based around strong coastal themes and sympathetically balances its sensitive location whilst also being an iconic visual draw to this area. The proposal was drawn up after an engagement event was held by Suffolk Coastal District Council, through Felixstowe Forward, seeking the views of local people about plans for Felixstowe's future.

This gave the Council an opportunity to present the proposed plan for the South Seafront to the local community and gain important and valuable feedback.

The proposed area for the development has been designated for a café since the first planning approval in 2009 and again in the implemented 2012 proposals. Although it was not part of the planning permission at the time, it formed a part of the masterplan for the housing developments and Martello Park. The Council has since delivered a substantial and very popular play area at Martello Park and invested in the long term maintenance of its historic Martello Tower which forms the centrepiece of the park.

### **Normanston Railway Bridge improvements**

Sustrans, the charity that's making it easier for people to walk and cycle, is working with the Council on an exciting new project. They're investigating the viability of improving 'access for all' over the Normanston Railway Bridge.

The existing Victorian brick bridge is located on the south west corner of Normanston Park in Lowestoft and is currently accessible for pedestrians only. It has a stepped access with unsurfaced paths either side to Constable Close and Harbour Road. Funding for the feasibility stage at Normanston Bridge has been



raised from a “Community Infrastructure Levy” paid by developers from other projects in the town.

### **Paw Patrol at Kesgrave Library**

Guests enjoyed a ‘paw-load’ of fun as Kesgrave Community Library celebrated the start of the annual Summer Reading Challenge by throwing a Paw Patrol party. Over 400 guests attended the party, and children got to meet ‘Marshall’ himself, design superhero craft, take part in a themed treasure hunt and even a Paw Patrol inspired raffle. Cllr Stuart Lawson, whose donation from his Enabling Communities Budget helped the library buy a book unit to display their ‘Suffolk Loves’ books, was invited along to the fun day to judge the fancy dress competition.

### **Dance performance from Lowestoft community groups**

Members of the Lowestoft community came together for a performance of the Lowestoft Dance Map, an interpretation of the story of Lowestoft’s fisher girls through movement. DanceEast and Glass House Dance worked with a number of groups including Ashley School, Key Stage 2, Leading Lives: FABBA Theatre Group, Marina Theatre: Next Stagers Theatre Group, Suffolk Snitchers and Knitters and The Rogues Shanty Chorus.

Lowestoft Dance Map is part of Making Waves Together, led by Great Yarmouth Borough Council and Waveney District Council, which communities and organisations in both towns work together to inspire and engage our communities as both participants and audiences. All this was made possible through the Great Place Scheme, delivered by Arts Council England, the Heritage Lottery Fund and supported by Historic England.

### **Dementia support made available (and more funding found in April 2019 to extend)**

To coincide with Dementia Action Week the Alzheimer’s Society was present at our Customer Services centres to provide information, advice and support to those living with dementia and those who know someone living with dementia.

### **New skate plaza officially opened**

A state of the art skate plaza was officially opened in Carlton Colville. The skate park was the final part of a three-phase refurbishment at Carlton Meadow Park; the Council has invested £100,000 of Section 106 contributions from nearby housing developments to fund the refurbishments. The £140,000 skate plaza, delivered by Bendcrete Skateparks, was funded by the Council, WREN and Carlton Colville Town Council with further support from Tingdene, Lowestoft Lions, East Point Rotary and the Rope Charity. The project took taken two years to design, develop, fund and deliver.

A lot of hard work and years of planning went into this and we are proud to see it all complete for the benefit of the local community and especially children and young people - promoting play, sport and outdoor activities.

### **Framlingham Medical Practice set to expand**

Work began on improving facilities at Framlingham Medical Practice in east Suffolk. The 28-week expansion and improvement project enables the practice to employ additional health care staff, offer extra services and meet the increasing demand for primary care services in the area.

With rapid local housing development it is estimated that the practice may have an additional 1500-2000 patients in the next three years. The c. £420,000 funding contribution for this expansion is being provided by NHS England's Estates and Technology Transformation Fund and Suffolk Coastal District Council's Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL).

### **Big Lunch went down well with Kessingland residents**

A lunchtime event aimed at reducing social isolation and loneliness amongst Kessingland residents was hailed as a success by its organisers. Kessingland residents attended the 'Big Lunch' at Marram Green, part of a national initiative to build strong connected communities. Organised by the East Suffolk Communities Team, Access Community Trust, BACT and Kessingland Parish Council, the event gave local people the chance to have lunch, meet new friends and help build a strong local community.

In addition to lunch from Sam's Café, residents enjoyed games and activities provided by Kessingland Library and were able to use the Marram Green gym equipment. Children from the Kessingland Primary School Choir also performed at the event.

### **We Helped businesses prepare for GDPR**

To help prepare businesses for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into force. The Councils and the East Suffolk Partnership joined with The DPO Centre to provide an online toolkit with advice and tips on how to get your organisation ready for GDPR. The toolkit provided advice and support on what business owners need to consider, as well as a checklist of actions on what to do next, all aimed at ensuring you are able to implement the necessary changes.

The GDPR was the biggest change in data protection legislation for over 20 years, so it was vital that organisations large and small understood their new obligations. The free policy toolkit provided East Suffolk organisations with the support they needed to improve their knowledge, along with the documentation required to demonstrate their compliance.

### **Council supporting local recovery in Halesworth**

The Council, working as part of a multi-agency response to support local businesses and residents affected by a devastating fire in Halesworth. Officers from the Council's Building Control, Communities, Economic Development and Emergency Planning teams were on site as part of the local recovery process, a meeting was held with local business owners to discuss the impact of the fire.

It was a difficult and traumatic time for the owners of the businesses affected by the fire. Some have been trading from these premises for many years and the Council will be working closely with the business owners to get them back on their feet as quickly as possible. The community really pulled together and we were impressed by the strength and resilience shown by the businesses and the local community

### **The Sixth East Suffolk Partnership Annual Forum took place in November.**

The theme was "East Suffolk: So much on the horizon!" which provided an opportunity to "take a breath" during this time of rapid change to look at the potential ups and downs of living in east Suffolk – both now and in the future.

The annual Forum yet again enjoyed excellent partnership support and many individuals from a wide range of different organisations and communities were willing to offer resources and support to make it a success. The event was again oversubscribed and around 200 people attended.

### **First community art installation to be opened**

Following a series of school and community workshops, the first art installation from a cultural project linked to the creation of Lowestoft's permanent flood defences was unveiled. Watertight Words, run by Flipside, a cultural animation project linked to the Lowestoft Flood Risk Management Project and is part of Great Places Making Waves Together, which is funded by Arts Council England and the Heritage Lottery, supported by Historic England.

A number of Watertight Words workshops were held involving over 1,000 local school children and the wider community to explore responses to the sea, the history of flooding in the town and what the new flood defences will mean for Lowestoft. Words and phrases developed during these workshops have been used to create a series of striking typographical installations which will be displayed around the town whilst the flood defences are being constructed.

The first installation, by award-winning lettering artist Gary Breeze and displayed at the Town Hall with the support of Lowestoft Town Council, uses the words and phrases developed through the children's workshops with local poet Dean Parkin.

### **Historic Aldeburgh house shortlisted for award**

The Red House, Aldeburgh, the home of the British composer and Suffolk hero Benjamin Britten was recognised for its family offering and has been shortlisted, alongside 10 other museums nationwide, for the Kids in Museums Family

Friendly Museum Award. For the last two years the Britten-Pears Foundation has worked hard in broadening its audience base and making The Red House an important part of the community. Along the Suffolk Coast, rural isolation, poor public transport links and economic hardship create significant barriers to accessing cultural activities and we are taking an active role in developing opportunities and engagement with young people. The Britten-Pears Foundation believes it is never too early to learn about music and history and offer a variety of free activities such as Mini Music Makers sessions for 0-5 year olds, family trails and activities during the school holidays, resources and exciting events to help families explore our beautiful site and exhibitions together.

## **Finally**

### **Residents urged to be scam aware**

East Suffolk and Suffolk Trading Standards are reminding and urging residents to be scam aware. Last year, Citizens Advice found that almost three quarters of people surveyed had been targeted by a scam in the previous two years (2015-17). It is estimated that only 5-15% of scams are reported, and some people don't even know they have been scammed. Scammers target people by post, phone calls, text messages, emails, and they even visit homes without any warning. Scams come in a variety of forms, from lottery scams to fake ticketing and emails, but ultimately a scam is any attempt to fraudulently obtain money or something else of value.

While new scams crop up all the time, the tactics of scammers remain the same. They will often:

- \* Contact you out of the blue
- \* Ask for personal or financial details
- \* Put you under pressure to respond quickly
- \* Ask you to keep their offer secret
- \* Make promises or offers that sound too good to be true

Suffolk Trading Standards is advising residents to:

- \* Verify the identity of strangers
- \* Look out for grammatical or spelling mistakes in letters or flyers
- \* Never give out bank details
- \* Never send money to strangers
- \* Say no to persuasive sales talk

Suffolk Trading Standards has the ability to prosecute those who undertake these misleading actions and provides support and advice to victims of scams. As part of the fight against scammers, Suffolk Trading Standards implements 'No Cold Calling Zones', just one way that doorstep scams can be stopped. More information is available at: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/nocoldcallingzone](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/nocoldcallingzone).

They also manage a Consumer Champion Network, where residents receive the latest information on scams which they pass on to their local communities. Anyone can become a Consumer Champion by visiting: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/JoinTheFight).

Scammers often target the county's most vulnerable residents, but this is not always the case, therefore all Suffolk residents must be vigilant. We urge anyone who is concerned that they or a friend or family member might have been scammed to call the Citizens Advice consumer helpline on: 03454 040506 or Action Fraud, the UK national fraud office on: 0300 1232040.

***Best wishes and many thanks again,***

***Cllrs Maurice Cook and William Taylor***