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# Coastline Lite



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Produced by Suffolk Coastal to inform local Town and Parish Councils

Edition 13 – Spring 2017

## **Welcome to the spring edition of Coastline Lite – aimed keeping Town and Parish Councils informed about developments at Suffolk Coastal and further afield.**

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

**Budget 2017/18:** We have set our budget for this financial year (2017/18), with the Suffolk Coastal portion of the Council Tax bill increasing by 3.25%.

In real money, this equates to a rise of less than £5 for people living in a Band D property, with the Council Tax on Band D increasing by £4.95 from £152.37 to £157.32 a year.....or by less than 10p a week!

However, we would stress:

- We remain very positive about the future and believe Suffolk Coastal District Council has a key role to play in fostering a strong economy by helping businesses develop, driving the provision of more housing (particularly extra affordable homes) and creating new jobs in the district.
- The Council has recognised the need to adopt a more commercial approach to providing services. We need to generate income from our services, if we are to keep council tax down and protect the tax payer.
- No one wants to pay more for services or pay more council tax. But we are faced with dwindling financial support from central Government, so we have a difficult balancing act to ensure everyone pays their fair share to support the frontline services we provide to the community.
- By being more commercial in our approach, we create the funds to be able to invest in important community projects, such as improving our leisure centres, as well as continuing to deliver our Enabling Communities agenda.
- In short, there are financial challenges ahead, but we are confident we can deliver quality services, while continuing to make efficiency savings and investing in the future.

Our partnership with Waveney has already drastically reduced our staffing numbers and resulted in joint saving of over £16million since 2010. These savings have been achieved while safeguarding frontline services.

But we need to build on our success and continue to drive down costs. We are driving forward on all fronts, from the proposed merger with Waveney District Council through to moving to new, more economical offices in Melton at no cost to the tax payer.

Suffolk Coastal has an annual budget of about £12 million. About £7.7million of this comes from Council Tax. Although we collect the Council Tax (on behalf of Suffolk Coastal, the County Council, Police and Town/Parish Councils), only about 10p in the pound goes towards providing our district council services.

We are facing a steep reduction in central Government grants. Grant income from central Government has dropped from £7.4million in 2010/11 to £600,000 in 2017/18 – and is projected to fall even further in the future.

The Council has benefited from what is called ‘incentivised income’, through New Homes Bonus and business rate retention, although there is still a projected budget gap of £2.1 million in 2018/19.

Rather than make cuts to services, Suffolk Coastal is committed to reducing its dependence on central Government grants by becoming more financially self-sufficient, through reduced spending and generating more income to make up this shortfall.

**Beach Hut Review Consultation:** The six-week public consultation on the Beach Hut Review has now been completed.

We received well over 700 responses. These are now being analysed and the information will be used to help formulate a new report on this issue, with proposals for the way forward. Cabinet will then consider the new report, complete with the consultation responses, later in the year.

In the interim, no decisions have been taken on how the beach hut service will be managed, or what charges will be levied, in the future. The responses to this consultation will be invaluable in assisting Suffolk Coastal to shape the future of this service and make decisions on this issue.

Because the consultation period covered the time when existing beach hut owners would normally be asked if they wanted a licence for the coming financial year, the decision was also taken to issue an annual licence for a further year (2017/18), with the charges increasing by the same rate as the Council Tax for Suffolk Coastal (3.25%), while the longer term future of the service is properly debated.

The beach hut service is just one of many being reviewed by the Council. As explained above, we are faced with on-going reduction in support from central Government and are seeking to protect the local council tax payer, by getting making sure we maximise the contribution we get from our publicly owned assets and the services we offer.

**Support Suffolk’s Armed Forces Day:** A celebratory event to show Suffolk’s appreciation of the work of the Armed Forces is to be held in Felixstowe this year.

2017 marks the 350<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Dutch attack on Landguard Fort in Felixstowe and to mark the occasion, and to recognise the huge contribution made by our servicemen and women from the past until the present day, Felixstowe has been chosen as the venue for Suffolk Armed Forces weekend.

A weekend of action-packed entertainment is planned for Saturday 24 and Sunday 25 June 2017 and plans to be a high profile, one off free event for all age groups.

Suffolk Coastal welcomes feedback on Coastline Lite, email: [steve.henry@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:steve.henry@eastsuffolk.gov.uk)  
Read our latest news on: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk) ; Follow us: [@EastSuffolk](https://www.facebook.com/EastSuffolk) or like us on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/suffolkcoastal](http://www.facebook.com/suffolkcoastal)

There will be a unique package of entertainment including music from choirs and military bands to an evening of pop and rock, military displays, food stalls, children's activities and fireworks, and some thrilling battle re-enactments between the Dutch and English with cannon, muskets and swords. All this by Felixstowe's fantastic seaside with all that has to offer as well!

The event is being organised in partnership by organisations including the Suffolk Armed Forces Covenant Group, the Landguard Fort Trust, Royal Marines Association and Royal British Legion, with assistance from local authorities and military units.

To make this an event we can all be proud of we need the support of businesses, organisations and individuals who understand and value our armed forces, our community and our history.

If you would like to talk more about how you could be involved, please feel free to give our project officer Paul Grant a ring on 07850 427928, or email: [paul.grant@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:paul.grant@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

**New Volunteering Website:** There is a new and easy way to discover volunteering opportunities in Suffolk, thanks to the Volunteer Suffolk website. The site has been created as a one-stop shop for people to discover how they can gift their time, and for local organisations to advertise their volunteering opportunities.

The website already boasts more than 100 volunteering opportunities, added by local organisations and charities. These range from short-term and one-off roles, to temporary positions and long-term roles.

Current opportunities include being a tour guide for the Tide Mill in Woodbridge, a marshal at the Midnight Walk in aid of St. Elizabeth Hospice, preparing animal feeds at Banham Zoo and assisting with play sessions for children who have suffered from domestic abuse or violence at home.

There are also "10 minute volunteer" opportunities on offer which simply involve sharing a Facebook post to raise awareness, sourcing a raffle prize or putting up a poster at work.

The website also provides helpful volunteering tips, latest news and volunteers' stories.

Volunteer Suffolk is a product of the Suffolk Volunteering Strategy and was made possible thanks to a steering group of representatives from Suffolk's public, private and voluntary sectors.

For more information visit [www.volunteersuffolk.org.uk](http://www.volunteersuffolk.org.uk)

**'Love East Suffolk' returns:** The 'Love East Suffolk' litter pick scheme is back for 2017 to encourage, enable and reward people to show some love for the environment we live in.

Last year the incentive based community litter pick scheme helped clean up over 7.6 tonnes of waste across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney whilst also giving groups funding to spend in their community.

In 2017 both Councils hope to encourage even more groups to take part – beating the 2,035 people who got involved during 2016.

Suffolk Coastal welcomes feedback on Coastline Lite, email: [steve.henry@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:steve.henry@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)  
Read our latest news on: [www.eastsoffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsoffolk.gov.uk) ; Follow us: [@EastSuffolk](https://www.facebook.com/EastSuffolk) or like us on facebook  
[www.facebook.com/suffolkcoastal](http://www.facebook.com/suffolkcoastal)

To incentivise more groups of volunteers to help litter pick in East Suffolk, the Love East Suffolk scheme offers a £20 payment to all groups who register their litter pick to take place between 1 March to 31 May 2017.

All registered groups who carry out their pick during this period will also be entered into a prize draw, with prizes of £200 awarded to winning groups in each of five “neighbourhood areas” in Suffolk Coastal and in each of four “neighbourhood areas” in Waveney with funding once again provided by Norse.

Both Suffolk Coastal Norse and Waveney Norse can provide volunteers with equipment including sacks, disposable gloves, 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.

For more information, visit: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/love-east-suffolk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/waste/litter/love-east-suffolk)

**Guidance During the Pre-Election Period:** The Pre-Election Period (PEP - also referred to as ‘purdah’) officially started on Thursday, 23 March, and finishes when the polls close at 10pm on Thursday, 4 May.

These are Suffolk County Council elections, so it will be largely ‘business as usual’ for Suffolk Coastal District Council. However, our Members need to take particular care when using council resources during this period, to ensure that the Suffolk Code of Conduct (the Code) is not broken.

**Candidate & Agent Briefings:** The second briefing session for prospective agents and candidates for the Suffolk County Council election is being held at East Suffolk House on **Tuesday, 18 April, from 10:30am-12:30pm.**

This session, will focus on agents, postal votes, what happens on polling day and how verification and the count process will work. The briefing sessions provide detailed information and explain the whole election process, as well as giving candidates and agents the opportunity to ask any questions they may have.

We had a very good turn out for the first session in March. Anyone wishing to attend should contact: [karen.last@eastsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:karen.last@eastsuffolk.gov.uk) or ring 01394 444685.

**Leisure Project Boost :** The Deben Leisure Centre redevelopment project in Woodbridge has been given a major boost by Sport England National Lottery Funding.

Sport England National Lottery Funding awarded £500,000 from their improvement fund to support Suffolk Coastal in improving the leisure centre as part of the Council’s wider commitment to improve its leisure centre offer and to encourage more people to become fit and active.

The funding enhances Suffolk Coastal’s investment of £2.5M in the project, which in total is set to cost £3M. This funding announcement follows the project gaining planning approval in February and Cabinet signing off the business case in March.

Work on Deben Leisure Centre is planned to begin in September 2017 and will last for approximately 10 months. During this time, a full closure is required, due to the nature of the site and the work being undertaken. It's hoped that works will be completed by summer 2018.

Plans for the leisure facility, which has been designed with the Council's leisure development partner, Pulse Fitness, which is operated by Places for People Leisure, include a new gym which has been designed to be more spacious, featuring modern equipment and the pool area will feature a new health suite with a steam room, sauna and ice room.

The plans also include the addition of a new floor to be added to the front of the building, with purpose built family changing areas and separate changing facilities for use by schools and the provision of two studios, one to incorporate a spin room and the other for fitness classes, which will also be available for community hire.

**Cycling on the Prom Trial:** As we approach the summer tourist season, the year-long trial allowing cycling along Felixstowe's Promenade is going well.

But Suffolk Coastal has repeated our appeal for people using the Prom to take extra care, as the shared space become busier.

The trial to allow cycling on the Prom was officially launched in mid-October 2016, when the byelaw which prohibited cycling was lifted to allow cycling for a period of 12 months.

Temporary signs have been installed to promote the trial and inform both pedestrians and cyclists that the Prom is now a shared space, with cycling permitted. The signs stress the need for cyclists to be mindful of pedestrians and to dismount in crowded or narrow areas.

Since the trial was launched, Felixstowe Forward has only received three complaints and one comment to date. All of which came in within a few weeks of the launch. These related to concerns around the introduction of cycling on the Prom, the need for cyclists to dismount in congested areas and one highlighting a near miss between a pedestrian and cyclist.

The trial has been put in place, following a request from Felixstowe Town Council. This led to a public consultation, conducted by [Felixstowe Forward](#) in 2016, which showed that the majority of people would like to see cycling allowed along [Felixstowe's Promenade](#)

The trial period will continue to be monitored throughout the year and a final report will be prepared at the end of this period to determine the trial's success and give recommendations for the future. Any comments should be sent [Felixstowe Forward](#).

**Walking Festival:** Continuing on the leisure theme, the 10<sup>th</sup> Suffolk Walking Festival kicks off in May with over 100 walks organised across the county, from Saturday 13 May to Sunday 4 June!

The festival officially launches at Sutton Hoo on Saturday 13 May and over the three weeks, offers walks to suit beginners and experienced walkers, with many also incorporating other activities and opportunities for people to learn new skills.

On the day of the launch there are an exciting 11 walks on offer, which all explore the Anglo-Saxon royal burial site. With 10 of the walks including admission to the exhibition and

burial mounds, the walks give everyone the chance to find out more about the history as well as its importance for wildlife in the area.

Once again, there are walks to suit everybody, including families with pushchairs and young children, wheelchair users, dog owners as well as people who want to try out more advanced types and routes. Many of the walks are also themed to attract specific people's interests such as wildlife, health, history and art. To view the full Walking Festival programme and to book tickets, visit: [www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk](http://www.suffolkwalkingfestival.co.uk)

**New Electronic Recycling Points:** It is now even easier for residents in and around Woodbridge and Saxmundham to recycle their electronic waste.

Collection containers for small electrical and electronic appliances have been placed at the Market Place car park in Saxmundham, and the recycling centre behind the Deben Pool swimming pool in Station Road, Woodbridge.

The new facilities enable residents to deposit waste items such as hairdryers, kettles, toasters, electric clocks, irons, food mixers, DVD players, radios and small electrical hand tools and will be serviced by our partners, Suffolk Coastal Norse.

Households in the UK have an average of 25 electrical and electronic items and, currently, only 10% of them are recycled when they reach the end of their useful life. These items should not be placed in any of the wheeled bins that residents have at home, as they contain a mixture of materials, including metals that can be harmful if not disposed of correctly, but which are valuable if recycled.

Electrical items are one of the common contaminants found in the blue-lidded recycling wheeled bins, causing problems at the recycling sorting facility at Great Blakenham.

Electrical and electronic waste can already be recycled at the County Council's Household Waste and Recycling Centres at Leiston, Foxhall and Felixstowe.

**New Visitor Information Service:** In a ground-breaking new partnership, Suffolk Coastal has joined with the Aldeburgh Cinema Trust to launch a new Visitor Information Service in Aldeburgh.

The Aldeburgh Tourist Information Centre was closed at the end of September 2016, due to reduced demand. However, at the time we gave a commitment to continuing to provide some form of a visitor information service in the town.

Now it has announced the new service will be run through Aldeburgh Cinema to provide the public with information on local events, places to visit and offer local knowledge and advice.

This will be based from a self-help service area in the foyer of the cinema which will include an interactive terminal for the public to use to access key tourist information websites, with cinema staff and volunteers on hand to provide assistance to the public.

The new service starts on Saturday, 1 April 2017. The cinema will now be open longer hours during the day from 10am-5/6pm (depending on the time of year).



**Calor Rural Community Fund:** Local residents seeking funding for off-grid rural community projects could be eligible to receive a grant of up to £5,000 to help fund schemes that will improve local life.

Depending on the size of the project, there are three levels of funding available, with two grants of £5,000, two of £2,500 and a further five, £1,000 grants up for grabs.

Projects could be anything from off-grid (i.e. off mains gas) community centres, village halls and sporting venues to youth clubs and scout groups, or they could be initiatives to support the elderly - we're really open to ideas, big or small!

Entries open on the 3<sup>rd</sup> April 2017, but if you have local residents interested in learning more or to check out the entry criteria, they can visit [www.calor.co.uk/communityfund](http://www.calor.co.uk/communityfund) now to register their interest.

**Last Call for Melton Hill Furniture:** We've been working hard to ensure that surplus furniture from our old offices at Melton Hill is reused in the community.

We began to offer the furniture to community groups and charities from last September (2016) and the majority (nearly 90%) has already been donated to local charities, town and parish councils, community groups.

Our staff have also raised a fantastic £874.98 for the East Suffolk and Ipswich branch of RSPCA by bidding on the furniture.

However, there are still some desks and pedestals left, so we are now offering items to local businesses and anyone else that may have missed the opportunity.

If you are interested in this opportunity, please contact Julie Carver, Customer Contact Manager to register your interest: [furniture@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:furniture@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)

We will then provide interested parties with further details of when furniture is available for collection. Please do pass this message onto anyone you feel may welcome this opportunity.

**And finally.....**

**Get Snapping:** After six successful years, the Landguard Partnership has launched its Photography Competition for 2017 - where people can win a cash prize of £50 to put towards photographic equipment, plus a framed copy of their photograph.

The Landguard Peninsula at Felixstowe is a unique, exciting and diverse location for photographic opportunities - huge container ships, wonderful wildlife, amazing objects at the Felixstowe Museum and the historic Fort.

The competition is open to UK residents only, including all amateur and professional photographers, and once again, there are three themes to choose from:

Theme 1: **Wildlife** - sea life, butterflies, birds, etc.

Theme 2: **Macro** - close up photography.

Theme 3: **Photographs at Landguard that make you go 'wow'!** - let loose your imagination.

Entrants can submit their photograph by emailing [landguardenquiries@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:landguardenquiries@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)  
Please include full name, age, a telephone number where the Partnership can contact you and the theme you would like to enter. Remember all photographs must have been taken on the Landguard Peninsula. Closing date for entry is 12pm on Wednesday 6 September 2017.

Full competition details, plus terms and conditions can be found at  
[www.discoverlandguard.org.uk/landguard-photography-competition-2017-enter-now](http://www.discoverlandguard.org.uk/landguard-photography-competition-2017-enter-now)

**More information about Suffolk Coastal District Council, including all our press releases, is available on: [www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk](http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk)**

**If you have any feedback on this edition or suggestions for the content of future editions of Coastline Lite, such as possible topics/stories, please let me know by emailing me at: [steve.henry@eastsoffolk.gov.uk](mailto:steve.henry@eastsoffolk.gov.uk)**

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