

A Joint Report to the Meeting of Great Bealings
Parish Council
from the Suffolk Coastal District Councillors for
Woodbridge Ward September 2016



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Health and wellbeing funding: New funding to support the new 'Community Call to Action' has been made available to Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils by Public Health and Protection at Suffolk County Council.

The total funding available through this commissioning round will be £125,000 across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney districts.

A new Health and Wellbeing Community Call to Action Programme will be set-up to commission community groups and voluntary sector organisations to deliver new activity around health and wellbeing. Groups will be invited to bid against a budget of £62,500 for Suffolk Coastal.

The funding will support innovative, pilot projects that enable voluntary sector organisations and/or community groups to try something new to improve the health and wellbeing of their local population.

Food and Safety Service Plan: The Council has produced a Food and Safety Service Plan as prescribed by the Food Standards Agency to look at the Council's performance and identify any areas for improvement.

The plan details successes by the Council's Food Safety team in the last five years, for example how in the five years that the National Food Hygiene Rating Scheme has been operating in Suffolk Coastal, we have seen an increase of 79% in the number of premises achieving the highest rating of 5, very good. It also demonstrates the success of the campaign Eat Out Eat Well which encourages businesses to offer foods in low fat, salt and sugar and have healthier food more widely available.

East Suffolk Performance Report: Both Councils have undertaken a quarterly performance report from 1 April to 30 June this year which provides an overview of the Council's progress of our East Suffolk Business Plan.

Overall we are pleased to see that both Councils are continuing to make significant and positive progress in delivering our objectives. Key achievements include; increasing the number of businesses we support through Economic Services (34), beating our target for the number of major (70%) and minor planning applications (66.39%) and seeing a reduction in the amount of time it takes our Customer Services to process payments (down from 12 days to 7.7) and amount of complaints we receive (24).

The report contains information provided by all individual services and key strategic partner organisations for example Places for People who have seen an increase in the number of people participating in sport (174,561 for target of 168,393) and Suffolk Coastal Norse who have noticed an increase in the amount of waste we send to be reused, recycled or composted (61.53% for target of 60.63) **Accommodation project:** Work is on schedule for staff to move into new Suffolk Coastal Offices at East Suffolk House in Melton, this autumn.

We have now taken possession of the building and have started the installation process to ensure the office is fitted out to our requirements.

The plan is for staff to move into the new offices over three consecutive weekends and to be fully moved in by mid November.

We are also in the process of decommissioning Melton Hill which will involve offering office furniture to local community groups, charities and Town and Parish Councils. Please look out for further details as we will be contacting groups shortly.

Enabling Community Roadshows: Two roadshows delivered in Lowestoft and Stratford St Andrew in July aimed at helping communities independently address local issues have been hailed as a success.

The events were well attended by representatives from a variety of organisations and members of the public. As a result of taking part in the events, which were organised by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils Active Communities Team, a number of communities are already taking positive action towards build community capacity and resilience.

Members of local groups who have already developed community-led initiatives were present at the roadshows to showcase and explain to other attendees how they developed their own schemes and improved their resilience, environment and the overall quality of life of their communities. Attendees were also asked to consider their community strengths and assets and determine what was already working well in their local areas.

Devolution: The consultation period on devolution has now ended. Local people, businesses and organisations were asked for their views on the Scheme of Governance which proposed that two deals (Norfolk/Suffolk and Cambridgeshire/Peterborough) are made.

Responses from this will now be sent to the Secretary of State who looks at these, alongside the Governance Review and the draft Scheme of Governance. They will then decide whether a Mayoral Combined Authority for Norfolk and Suffolk should be set up. For more information, visit: www.eastangliadevo.co.uk/consultation

Businesses in east Suffolk rewarded for good hygiene: 22 businesses in Suffolk Coastal were given a Food Hygiene Rating of 5 in July - the highest level possible following inspections in July by the Councils' Food and Safety Team.

During an inspection, each food business is checked for the following:

- how hygienically the food is handled - how it is prepared, cooked, re-heated, cooled and stored
- the condition of the structure of the buildings - the cleanliness, layout, lighting, ventilation and other facilities
- how the business manages and records what it does to make sure food is safe.

At the end of the inspection, our food safety officers give the business a rating between 0-5. The top rating of '5' means that the business was found to have 'Very good' hygiene standards. Any business should be able to reach this top rating.

Switching to Direct Debit: We're encouraging more of our residents to pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit through a national campaign by BACs, giving everyone who signs up before 30 September a chance of winning £5,000.

Currently, Over 71% of Suffolk Coastal residents currently pay by Direct Debit, a total of 42289 out of our 59671 Council Tax payers but we hope the competition will help us to increase this number.

Customers who already pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit will automatically be entered into the prize draw. People can sign up easily, by calling Customer Services on: 01394 444339.