

Welcome to our Suffolk Coastal Annual roundup.

It has been another busy and interesting year for us and we would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your ongoing continued support. It is impossible to cover every single item over the past year but below is an update and a reminder of a few things.

Thank you to everyone that has responded to the SPR and EDF Sizewell C consultations and to everyone that participated in the Planning Appeal re the Brick Dock.

Maureen has also been working hard towards providing local housing in Thorpeness and also for the Heritage Centre and providing the whole council with ANOB updates. T-J (amongst many other local projects is working on a project for Period Poverty and greatly appreciates any assistance that you may offer towards, thanks also go to the other SCDC Cllrs that have contributed, Maureen included. T-J is also working on securing more local funding for dementia projects. Our thanks also go to everyone involved regarding our estuary protection and to the many local volunteers, groups and projects within our whole ward, too many to mention.

We have also asked that Flagship hold a local event nearer to completion of the old Police Station site so that local people can register their interest.

T-J Haworth-Culf and Maureen Jones

Local - Enabling Communities Budget:

We have helped various groups and projects throughout the year: fully funded 2 defibrillators in Aldeburgh for Aldeburgh Town Council and a joint funded one at the Parrot and Punchbowl in Aldringham. Funding for Aspect living to deliver nutritious meals locally, Seaside events including the Carnival, a Tommy for remembrance for the town, fencing, village plan funding, ATC sports week, legal costs for the transfer of a village hall into the local community group, fire doors, a projector and screen, new windows and towards the Period Poverty project, headed up by TJ.

Over the last 4 years: Aldeburgh Town Councils annual Sports week; Village hall chairs, kitchen doors, floors and ceilings; dog bins, heated cabinet for a defibrillator, cricket equipment, specialist matting, civic flag for Aldeburgh RNLI, community workshop, toddler music sessions, Aldeburgh Primary School club, Aldeburgh Christmas lights events, Aldeburgh Library, The Queens 90th birthday local events within the whole ward, The rifle club, Rugby club, Play equipment at Knodishall and Aldeburgh, The Jubilee Hall, The Aldeburgh Hospital Garden, The Church car park resurfacing, goal posts for Kemps Field and more.

Before we look back:

Suffolk Coastal Cabinet – 6.30pm on Tuesday, 5 March 2019,

Asset Divestment/Disposal – Two Play Areas, Felixstowe – As part of our on-going Enabling Communities agenda, we are planning to transfer of 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 is 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.

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.

Local Planning Enforcement Plan - In order to be prepared for the new East Suffolk Council on 1 April, we are required to ratify all our existing policies. This report is put before Members as consultees requesting authorisation for formal adoption of the new Local Planning Enforcement Plan for East Suffolk Council. The proposed Local Planning Enforcement Plan aims to set out how enforcement action will be taken in East Suffolk by taking into account both the common issues that require planning enforcement action and the resources at the Council's disposal.

A Special Meeting of Cabinet – is being held in the Deben Conference Room, East Suffolk House, on Monday 11 March 2019 at 6.30pm. This special meeting is being held to consider Suffolk Coastal's response to two high-profile important consultations which are currently being held. These are: East Anglia One North and EastAnglia Two Offshore

Windfarms Phase 4 - Consultation from Scottish Power Renewables Sizewell C Stage 3 Public Consultation

Updates:

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. It is our ambition (TJ is part of the board) to bring a free WiFi initiative to our market towns.

Ipswich Northern Route Project Timescale – The County Council has outlined the timescale for the next steps in producing the Strategic Outline Business Case to examine and ultimately clarify the feasibility of an Ipswich northern route. The stage one study and report into possible highways options was completed in 2017, with the options assessment and development commissioned in May 2018 currently being evaluated and prepared for shortlisting, prior to consultation. The timescale going forward is: • Public consultation on the route details, alignment options and junction options with the A14 and A12 - to begin in the Summer 2019 • Completion of the Strategic Outline Business Case to be shared with government, local MPs and the public - Autumn 2019. Suffolk County Council has been working with District and Borough Councils to develop the project and will continue to do so in the future. Councillor Ray Herring, Leader of Suffolk Coastal District Council, said: "We welcome the publication of the timetable and the upcoming public consultation which will allow communities in east Suffolk to have their say on the possible routes. The Ipswich northern bypass will benefit many businesses in east Suffolk, particularly those along the A12 and those associated with the Port of Felixstowe. However, these benefits need to be balanced against the concerns of the communities that might be affected by any new route." For more information visit the County's website: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/roads-andtransport/transport-planning/consultations-and-studies/>

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. The Love East Suffolk initiative will be repeated again this year and any community groups that take part will receive £20 for their nominated community fund or charity, and will also be entered into a £200 grand prize draw. More details will be released in the spring. Both Suffolk Coastal Norse and Waveney Norse can provide volunteers with equipment 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

Recent news:

Councils remain deeply concerned about the impact of coastal energy projects

Suffolk Coastal District Council are continuing to raise serious concerns around plans for windfarm projects proposed by Scottish Power Renewables, and the lack of coordination with other energy projects proposed on the coast.

Authorities continue to support the principle of offshore wind to reduce carbon emissions and provide significant economic benefits in the county and the UK, **but** have made it clear that this should not be achieved at any cost to Suffolk.

Reports have been jointly written and will be presented at each authority's Cabinet meetings, in response to Scottish Power Renewables proposals for the East Anglia Offshore Windfarms One (North) and Two. They contain recommendations of co-ordinated actions to protect Suffolk's coastline.

The reports contain over 100 points, covering a wide range of concerns about the East Anglia Offshore Windfarms One (North) and Two. These range from the impact on our land and seascapes, to the Government's role in managing a variety of projects on Suffolk's coast.

We stand shoulder to shoulder with our colleagues at Suffolk County Council and will continue to raise our huge raft of concerns about these windfarm projects. We will provide our joint response to this current consultation phase and at every opportunity in the future. We want to assure residents in our coastal communities that we will continue to do everything possible to protect our heritage and the scenery that we hold so dear. At a local level, there are many issues and we maintain that siting an onshore substation at Friston is not the right location.

Thank you to everyone that has responded to the SPR and EDF Sizewell C consultations.

New East Suffolk Council and Ward boundaries finalised for new East Suffolk Council

Ward boundaries for the **new East Suffolk Council** were published by the Local Government Boundary Commission for England. In May, the government confirmed that two new local authorities should be established in Suffolk. A new East Suffolk District Council will be formed of a merger between Suffolk Coastal and Waveney councils. The Commission has now finalised the wards which will be represented by East Suffolk's 55 councillors. The new arrangements will come into effect at the council's first elections in May.

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

Suffolk to host opening stage of 2019 Women's Tour

Suffolk will host the opening stage of the 2019 OVO Energy Women's Tour on Monday 10 June, marking the fifth time that the race has visited the county.

The county also becomes the first venue to be confirmed for the 2020 edition of the race. The Women's Tour and events like it all contribute to our ambition to make Suffolk England's most active county. We 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, such as Women on Wheels as part of an active and healthy lifestyle. It is always a much-celebrated event in Suffolk's Sporting Calendar, greatly enjoyed by local communities.

In a joint statement, Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal District Council's Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure and Cllr Michael Ladd, Waveney District Council's Cabinet Member for Economic Development and Tourism said:

"It is incredibly exciting that the OVO Energy Women's Tour is returning to East Suffolk for both 2019 and 2020 as we know our local communities, businesses and schools enjoy getting involved in this sporting spectacle. We are committed to increasing people's participation in sport and the Women's Tour will no doubt inspire more people to take up cycling and improve their health and wellbeing."

In its four previous visits to Suffolk, the OVO Energy Women's Tour is estimated to have attracted in excess of 250,000 spectators to the roadside and created a net economic impact for the county's economy of in excess of £3.5 million.

Almost 70% of spectators surveyed following last year's opening stage, between Framlingham and Southwold, said that the event inspired them to cycle more often.

Commenting on the announcement, OVO Energy Women's Tour Race Director Mick Bennett said,

"We are delighted to be able to confirm that Suffolk will host the OVO Energy Women's Tour in both 2019 and 2020. Suffolk have been involved as a host venue since the first edition in 2014 so the extension of our partnership for a further two editions of the race shows the support in the county for the event and their aims to get more people more active."

This June will mark the fourth time that the OVO Energy Women's Tour has begun in Suffolk with Bury St Edmunds, Southwold and Framlingham having each hosted the Grand Depart of Britain's biggest women's pro-cycling race.

Further details of the 2019 Suffolk stage, including the Start and Finish venues for Stage One, will be announced in early March, ahead of the announcement of the full route for the OVO Energy Women's Tour.

Women's WorldTour event to the county in both 2019 and 2020.

"We are delighted to welcome the OVO Energy Women's Tour back to Suffolk for a fifth year, and our fourth time of hosting the Grand Depart.

"We are proud to have secured the race in Suffolk for this year and next. This is in no small part due to the success of the previous stages hosted in Suffolk and the strength of our relationship with the race organisers, SweetSpot.

Looking back:

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 Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Council's Food and Safety Team between September and December 2018 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 FHRS 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 FHRs 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.

Helping hospital patients to get home

Suffolk Coastal District 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/

Funding boost for local communities

Local community groups have received a funding boost of over £126,000 so far 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.

So far this year, Suffolk Coastal's councillors have supported over 109 projects and community initiatives.

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.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure said: "I am delighted that we have been able to support so many great organisations this year. 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."

(see above for our details for ECB's)

Photo competition winners announced

The winners of the second East Suffolk Photo Competition have been announced by Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils. In November, the entries were judged by Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Cabinet Member for Customers, Communities and Leisure at Suffolk Coastal and Cllr Michael Ladd, Cabinet Member for Tourism and Economic Development at Waveney District Council.

In a joint statement, Cllr Haworth-Culf and Cllr Ladd said: "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.

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. Thank you to everyone that took part.

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 has 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, Suffolk Coastal stepped in to buy the land and safe guard these aspirations for the future.

Celebrating local grand designs

Suffolk Coastal's very own grand designs were celebrated at an awards ceremony

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.

Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils 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.

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.

Services of Remembrance across East Suffolk.

Commemorations marking the centenary of the end of the First World War will take place across East Suffolk on and around 11 November. We helped to support people who want to commemorate the 100th anniversary of Armistice Day, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils by offering free parking at every council-owned car park across Suffolk Coastal and Waveney for the entire day. Maureen and T-J were privileged to be able to buy Aldeburgh (ATC) a Tommy statue that was on display on the memorial in November, this Tommy can be used annually from now on at the annual services.

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.

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.

Organised by Suffolk Coastal District Council and the Suffolk Coastal Rotary Clubs, 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.

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", said Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member with responsibility for customers, communities and leisure.

"We raised £2,600 for the Suffolk British Legion Poppy Appeal which is fantastic. We even got some exercise and fresh air while doing so - what better way to spend a Sunday morning?"

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.

Deben Leisure Centre was officially opened

Suffolk Coastal's Chairman, Cllr Nicky Yeo carried out the opening duties alongside Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member with responsibility for customers, communities and leisure.

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.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal's Cabinet Member with responsibility for Customers, Communities and Leisure said: "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.

Cllr Haworth-Culf said: “We’re really excited that work has started to transform Leiston Leisure Centre into a modern, exciting facility. The work will be completed over several stages with an initial closure period of about six-nine months needed to undertake structural work, depending on what we find. The centre will be partly reopened once the first stage is completed, and we expect the whole centre to be fully reopened in summer 2019.

“I want to thank members and the community for their support for the redevelopment so far. I understand that the closure will cause some inconvenience but we need to do this work to bring the aging facility up to the standard we want for our leisure facilities.”

More fitness classes will be available with two new dance studios and a group cycling studio, which will also serve as multi-bookable rooms as well as other improvements.

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@eastsoffolk.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.

Operation Camouflage, another success.

Children in Suffolk Coastal 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 Suffolk Coastal District 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.

Cllr TJ Haworth-Culf, Suffolk Coastal District Council’s Cabinet Member with responsibility for customers, communities and leisure, said: “This is a fantastic event for children to take part in during the summer holidays, and I am pleased to see it growing year on year.

Suffolk geared up for top charity cycle ride

Following the success of the OVO Energy Women’s Tour in Suffolk, 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.

Cllr T-J Haworth-Culf "The OVO Energy Women's Tour was an incredible event and we were delighted to see so much local support at the start, finish and along the route. It was an honour to be involved in the Women's Tour and we are equally pleased to be hosting the OVO Energy Tour Ride in Southwold, in support of Breast Cancer Care. The Tour Ride will give cycling fans the opportunity to ride through the beautiful east Suffolk countryside and raise money, and awareness, for this excellent cause."

Tackling dementia in young people

Suffolk Coastal 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.

Dementia support made available

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.

Suffolk residents urged to be scam aware

East Suffolk and Suffolk Trading Standards are reminding and urging Suffolk 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.

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.

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.

We Helped businesses prepare for GDPR

To help prepare businesses for the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) which came into force in May, Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District 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.

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.

And finally....

New Council became law as Orders were made

Signed, sealed and delivered: a new Council for east Suffolk WILL be 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 will come into existence on 1 April 2019, when both Suffolk Coastal District Council and Waveney District Council will be 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, Leader of Suffolk Coastal District Council 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 will see the creation of the largest district area in the country, of 487.2 sq miles (1,261.9 km²). The East Suffolk Council will serve a quarter of a million residents and deliver over 80 different services.

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

TJ and Maureen