

Report from Cllrs TJ Haworth-Culf & M Jones.

Look out for your annual voter registration form – coming soon!

Annual voter registration forms will be sent out next week and we're asking residents to respond by the deadline in order to help save money.

Next week, all 61,000 properties in Suffolk Coastal will receive a 'Household Enquiry Form' and residents are required by law to confirm or update the details of anyone at the address who is eligible to vote in the UK.

This information is used to compile the Register of Electors and enables those residents to vote in future elections. Suffolk Coastal residents will begin to receive their forms from 10 August onwards.

Forms are pre-printed with the names of all occupants currently registered to vote in each household and a response is required; either to update the details if there are any changes, or to confirm that the information is still the same.

Residents who voted in the recent elections will still need to respond to their Household Enquiry Form. The deadline for responses is 29 August 2016. After this deadline reminder forms have to be issued at extra cost.

Stephen Baker, Suffolk Coastal's Electoral Registration Officer, said: "Please don't ignore the letters we're sending out. You need to respond even if the information is correct by 29 August. You can do so quickly online at: www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal or by phoning or texting.

Canvassing all properties in Suffolk Coastal is a legal requirement, and although costly, it does enable us to ensure that residents can vote in future elections. We want to encourage our residents to return their forms back to us as quickly as possible to reduce the number of reminder letters we need to issue. By doing so you're helping us save money and helping to look after the environment too!

Once residents receive their form, responses can be made using one of the automated methods, by phone or using the dedicated website. Wherever possible, residents are urged to respond using one of these systems to avoid the costs of unnecessary reminder letters.

If there are no changes to be made, there are 3 different ways to confirm your details: - Go to: www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal

- Call free-phone 0808 284 1563
- Text 07537 410063
- Sign and return the form using the enclosed envelope

To change the details on your form: - Go to www.elecreg.co.uk/suffolkcoastal

- Amend, sign and return the form using the enclosed envelope

Once responses have been received by all properties, an up-to-date Register of Electors can be published.

Further details about the Register of Electors and annual voter registration can be found at: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Merger of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney District Councils.

At the Simultaneous Cabinet meeting on 25 July, Cabinet members considered the detailed merger proposal and agreed that the next steps are taken towards the creation of a new, single District Council for east Suffolk from 2019.

The proposal reflected upon the considerable achievements of Suffolk Coastal and Waveney who have worked in partnership since first sharing a Chief Executive in 2008. The Councils have saved approximately £16m since 2010 by working in partnership together. The proposal for merging the two Councils is designed to ensure the most effective delivery of the Councils' shared vision for east Suffolk, as set out in their joint Business Plan (2015-2023), and will deliver further savings of at least £1.3m per annum.

Now that both Cabinets have agreed to the proposals, detailed public engagement is planned to take place in the autumn, initially it's proposed to take place from 1 November to 12 December 2016. This is to include telephone polling (between 10-15 minutes) of a representative sample of 1000 residents from across East Suffolk. An analysis of this detailed public engagement will then form part of the report to the Full Council meetings, proposed to be held in January 2017.

You can view the full report by following links to the meeting at:

www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/yourcouncil/council-meetings-and-decisions/agendas-reports-and-minutes-of-council-meetings/

Devolution.

Since your last update, you will have heard a lot in the media about the latest on the East Anglia Devolution deal. It has now been proposed that two deals (Norfolk/Suffolk and Cambridgeshire/Peterborough) are made. Council leaders and LEPs believe this is the best way to get the most benefit for the people, places and businesses across East Anglia.

The two proposed deals worth more than £1.5bn have now been drawn up between Central Government and 19 councils across Suffolk, Norfolk, Cambridgeshire and Peterborough, the New Anglia Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and the Greater Cambridge/Greater Peterborough LEP.

The two deals, propose that two new East Anglia Combined Authorities would be created, chaired by Directly Elected Mayors – elections for which would take place in May 2017.

The Norfolk/Suffolk deal has been endorsed by all councils in Suffolk, along with Norfolk County Council, Broadland District Council, the Borough of King's Lynn and West Norfolk, South Norfolk Council and the New Anglia LEP –as you may be aware, some Councils in Norfolk have decided not to go ahead at this stage. All councils in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough and partners have agreed to their proposal deal.

Councils in Norfolk and Suffolk have undertaken a Governance Review to look in depth at the pros and cons of joining together. We have published proposals for how a new combined authority could work, called a Scheme of Governance.

Local people, businesses and organisations are now being asked what they think of the Scheme of

Governance. The responses are 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.

The consultation runs until Tuesday 23 August – please take part in the process:
www.eastangliadevo.co.uk/consultation

Local plan.

The next crucial stage in the development of Suffolk Coastal's local plan will be reached this month, when the Planning Inspectorate stages public hearing sessions.

On 20 June 2016, Suffolk Coastal submitted two site allocations documents for independent examination and the Planning Inspectorate have confirmed with Suffolk Coastal District Council that the public hearing sessions will start at 1pm on Tuesday 30 August 2016 in the Council Chamber at Melton Hill, Woodbridge.

The hearing sessions will consider the following:

- Site Allocations and Area Specific Policies Development Plan Document
- Felixstowe Peninsula Area Action Plan Development Plan Document

The Planning Inspectorate have appointed Elizabeth Hill BSc (HONS) BPHIL MRTPI to conduct the Examination to determine whether the two documents are sound. If found sound the documents will guide the future development and growth across the district up to 2027.

Further information about the Examination process, will be added to the Council's website as the process continues - www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/planning/local-plans/suffolk-coastal-district-local-plan/area-action-plan-for-the-felixstowe-peninsula/joint-examination/

Go paperless.

Customer Services are working hard with teams across the Council to encourage digital and paperless methods to make things as simple as possible for our customers, as the roll out of Universal Credit continues.

To help our customers, work has been done to create a digital map showing free PC and Wi-Fi locations in east Suffolk by Customer Services Intern, Alice Owen.

The map aims to help our customers find their nearest computer location and points on the map include children's centres, libraries, Citizens Advice Bureaus and Jobcentres. Each icon provides detail on the level of service offered at each location

such as free Wi-Fi and computer access as well as access to IT training and support. To view the digital map, visit: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/community/digital-map-for-east-suffolk

A national competition has also been launched to encourage as many people as possible to pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit. And in doing so, everyone who signs up before 30 September will be entered into a prize draw with a chance of winning £5,000.

To sign up by calling our Customer Services team on: 01394 444339.

You can download the leaflet from: www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/council-tax

Fly tipping

We are sure you were all pleased to hear that we have been making progress in catching and fining fly-tipping offenders in the district.

We're reminding residents and visitors of the need to ensure their household waste is disposed of properly after two residents were given Fixed Penalties for fly-tipping - one Rendlesham resident admitted to dumping waste in a layby in Bromeswell in May and a Saxmundham resident admitted to dumping waste outside the Household Waste Recycling Centre in Leiston whilst the site was closed, in June.

Since May 9 this year, local authorities have the powers to issue any person found responsible for illegally dumping rubbish with a Fixed Penalty Notice of £200 as an alternative to being prosecuted for the offence. If paid within ten days, the penalty is reduced to £120.

Failure to comply with the notice within 14 days may result in prosecution proceedings, which in the event of a conviction by a Magistrates Court can result in a maximum fine of £50,000 and / or a prison sentence of 6 months being imposed, with Crown Courts able to impose even steeper penalties of up to 5 years imprisonment and an unlimited fine.

Suffolk Coastal Norse are dealing with all reports of fly-tipping very seriously. We're asking residents to be vigilant of people dumping waste irresponsibly and to make sure that anyone who arranges for any waste to be taken away from their home by anyone other than Suffolk Coastal Norse to remember the Scrap Code, to avoid being held responsible should their waste end up fly-tipped.

Fly-tipping can be reported in confidence online: www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/waste/fly-tipping or by calling Suffolk Coastal on 01394 444000 or email scs@ncsgrp.co.uk

SCBCA Awards - reminder

The finalists for this year's awards have now been confirmed and nominations for all 13 awards has now closed.

Please help promote voting for the Enabling Communities Award, sponsored by Town 102 and The Beach radio stations. The five Community Project finalists are all worthy winners of this award, after being selected by our Enabling Communities team.

Voting is open to the public until 26 August and the winner will be announced at the awards dinner at The Hangar, Kesgrave Hall on 15 September.

Businesses urged to 'BEE' quick and apply for funding to cut their energy costs

Businesses in Suffolk and Norfolk can save money for free, thanks to the latest project helping businesses become greener and cut their energy costs.

The BEE Anglia project provides small to medium sized businesses with a free energy efficient audit from an independent source, allowing business owners and managers to discuss technologies and opportunities from energy efficient lighting to bio-mass boilers and various new equipment that could save the business money and energy. Companies who have already started to go through this process have enjoyed benefitting from the independent and expert viewpoint that is not biased to one technology or another. The project is funded by the European Regional Development Fund and is being delivered across the region through a partnership of Groundwork, Norfolk County Council, NWES and Suffolk County Council.

There are three core offers that have been designed to help businesses reduce carbon and save money using independent advice, funding and recognition for their efforts. To date the project has reviewed 38 organisations and identified cost savings of £770,574 (£20,278 per business), and carbon savings of 13,997.7t (368.4t per business). The savings identified are the equivalent of 4,160 flights from London to Sydney. *Grant funding is available towards a wide range of equipment and technologies, although the pot for this is limited and interest is expected to be high.

If any organisation is interested in the service, they can register their interest online (www.beeanglia.org) or call Groundwork on 01473 350370, dedicated advisors will be able to answer any queries about eligibility for the programme or potential grant projects.

Feeling the heat?

Whilst it may be a short lived spell of hot weather, some people will clearly find the current weather uncomfortable.

Please see details on the Met Office website and related links to NHS and other Public health guidance, for coping with hot weather.

<http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/heat-health/#?tab=heatHealth>

Celebrate 20 years of the Greenprint Forum – and win!

To celebrate 20 years of the East Suffolk Greenprint Forum, community groups could win £500 to benefit their local environment.

Four winning entrants will receive £500 to deliver activities in the Suffolk Coastal area, with one winner chosen from the Suffolk Coast and Heaths Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty (AONB).

Ideas can be submitted via Twitter, Facebook, email or by post however entries are limited to 140 characters or fewer. Within those 140 characters, the entry must state the group name and how the group plans to spend the £500. Photos are also welcome as part of the entry.

The Greenprint Forum competition is supported by the East Suffolk Partnership, Suffolk Coast and Heaths AONB's Sustainable Development Fund and Suffolk Coastal District Council.

The Greenprint Forum aims to support local communities to take environmental action and help address green issues. This competition offers groups the chance to fund their activities and make a difference to their local areas.

Ideas can be submitted to twitter.com/greenprintforum, facebook.com/greenprintforum, emailed to togreenprintforum@gmail.com or posted to Room 319, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU.

Please go to <http://www.eastsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/green-issues/east-suffolk-greenprint-forum/greenprint-forum-prize-draw/> Entries close on 11 August 2016.

The Greenprint Forum provides an environmental link between public and voluntary organisations and community groups as well as acting as a hub for community groups to share skills and experiences around energy, water usage, waste, local food and nature. Membership is free and is open to anyone over 18 years old. To become a member, please email deborah.wargate@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

Follow us on Facebook and Twitter

www.facebook.com/GreenprintForum

- www.twitter.com/GreenprintForum

Email: greenprintforum@gmail.com

Post to: Room 319, Melton Hill, Woodbridge, IP12 1AU

Closing date is 11 August 2016.

Reminder to Dog Owners to Clean Up

Dog owners are reminded of the need to clear up after their pets – or face a fine.

In March, a man walking a dog on land between Sizewell power station and the beach at Sizewell, near Leiston, was spotted failing to clear up after his dog. Suffolk Coastal Norse traced the dog walker, who then paid a Fixed Penalty Notice. Now Suffolk Coastal is repeating its warning to dog owners – clean up after your dog or face the consequences!

Failing to clean up after your dog on any relevant public land is a criminal offence under the Dogs (Fouling of Land) Act 1996, and the maximum penalty that a Court can impose on conviction is a fine of £1,000, together with a criminal record. However, the Council may offer an offender the opportunity to pay a Fixed Penalty

Notice of £80 (£60 if paid promptly), which, if paid, discharges the offender from liability to prosecution.

When walking your dog, always remember to take a bag with you to pick up the mess and always pay attention to what your dog is doing at all times – not having a suitable bag, or not noticing that the dog had fouled, is no excuse for failing to clear up after it.

And remember - any bin will do! Dog waste must always be picked up and placed in either a dog waste bin or litter bin, or taken home and placed in your grey-lidded wheelie bin.

Anyone who observes an offence of dog fouling, littering or fly-tipping, and has any information (for example, the name and address of an offender if known, or the registration number of their vehicle) that would help us to investigate and identify those responsible is urged to “tip us off” by contacting us on: 01394 444000. Any report made will be treated with the strictest confidence.

At the recent community enabling roadshow held in Stratford St Andrew (thank to those that attended and presented) TJ collected a couple of leaflets from the Trading Standards display which caught her eye, as you know one of our pet hates are scams via telephone and letters etc. One item is a double sided door sticker which saying “No uninvited traders here, Don’t ring, don’t knock” displaying the consumer protection from unfair trading regs 2008 on the outside of your window and the inside of the sticker gives you a reminder of what to do, telephone numbers etc. TJ collected a few of these stickers so please do get in touch if you would like one.

The other one was about **Truecall*** which helps to stop nuisance calls with a device attached to your phone which has a recorded message on it. For more information call them free on 0800 0 336 339. You can also call 03330 115567 to see (hear) how truecall treats unrecognised callers using a filter option *charges apply.

There is also the Telephone Preference Service which is a free service (TPS) www.tpsonline.org.uk The Telephone Preference Service (TPS) is a free service. It is the official central opt out register on which you can record your preference not to receive unsolicited sales or marketing calls. **It is a legal requirement that all organisations (including charities, voluntary organisations and political parties) do not make such calls to numbers registered on the TPS unless they have your consent to do so.**

Organisations with which you have an ongoing relationship, for example those who regard you as a customer, (or in the case of charities - a donor) may well gather your consent during the early stages of your relationship with them and will therefore be entitled to call you even if your number is registered on TPS, unless you have previously told them specifically that you object to them calling you for marketing purposes.

The TPS can accept the registration of mobile telephone numbers, however it is important to note that this will prevent the receipt of marketing voice calls but not SMS (text) messages. If you wish to stop receiving SMS marketing messages, please send an 'opt-out' request to the company involved.

As TPS registration only prevents marketing calls, organisations will still be able to call you for the purposes of genuine market research. *(please note that there are services available)*

TJ also received a message from Police Connect about door step fish sellers (*Police Connect is a messaging service connecting you to the very latest policing news for your area via e-mail, text or phone. There is no charge for this service - all messages you receive are free.*

You can register to receive information about the issues that most matter to you and be among the first to be alerted by police in the case of an emergency affecting your area.

You can choose to receive regular updates on crime and public appeals, safety advice and meetings and events. There is the option to receive information about a range of specific interest areas – such as ‘rural’ or ‘rivers and coastal’ – as well as updates for business owners and news from your Police and Crime Commissioner. The choice is yours.

<https://member.everbridge.net/index/892807736722380#/signup>

Residents are being warned by Suffolk Trading Standards to be aware of door-to-door fish sellers who are currently calling on households in the county, most recently in the IP2 area.

The trading standards team are asking people to watch out for unfamiliar traders trying to make a quick profit. Although there are some legitimate doorstep fish sellers trading in the county, residents are advised to be cautious if approached by any unfamiliar traders.

Some door-to-door sellers often target elderly or more vulnerable residents, convincing them to part with large sums of money for fish that is unlabelled or mislabelled, out of date or very close to being out of date or that has been previously frozen.

Householders are also led to believe they are only buying a few pieces of fish but are then presented with much larger quantities and pressured into taking them, often handing over more than £100.

Consumers need to be aware of the following:

Species of fish – can you be sure its genuine cod? Is it genuine salmon?

Don't feel pressured into paying for products you aren't sure you want.

Are the seller's scales calibrated – are you really getting the amount of fish you are paying for?

If you have any doubts at all, don't buy from them. Instead buy from your local shop or supermarket or known mobile fish sellers who regularly visit your area.

For further help or advice telephone Citizens Advice Consumer Helpline on 03454 040506

Aircraft Trials 2 Aug - 9 Sept Woodbridge Airfield

During August, a new military transport aircraft called the Airbus A400M will be undergoing trials at Woodbridge airfield.

The Airbus A400M development trials by Airbus Defence and Space and are designed to replicate soft airfield landings which have been specifically engineered by 23 Para Engr Regt on behalf of the MOD as the aircraft is bought into service.

Airbus Defence and the MOD express their thanks for the patience of local residents and assures them that no night-flying will take place and hopes to avoid operations at the weekend.

The UK is buying 22 A400Ms and the tests will play an important role in ensuring that the aircraft can perform all of its future missions in RAF service.

Finally, may we take this opportunity to thank ATC for another successful sports week and wish everyone a happy and safe carnival time.

TJ & Maureen.