

DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT

1) COUNCIL MEETING

On Thursday 16th August, Suffolk Coastal took the first steps to authorise alcohol designation orders to help control the anti-social behaviour in parts of the district. The Council discovered that the correct procedures had not been previously followed prior to the implementation of these order which did not technically provide council with the authority to carry out these orders. Thus a special meeting of the council took place on the 16th August to rectify this situation and enable the police to curb anti social behaviour. Kesgrave, Martlesham, Framlingham and Rushmere St Andrew are now supported by this order. In the designated areas, the police will have the power to prohibit someone whose behaviour is deemed to be anti-social to stop drinking alcohol and, if required hand over the drink. Failure to comply is an arrestable offence, with a potential fine of up the £500.

“This Council supports designation orders like these and partnership campaigns like Operation Nightsafe which are aimed at encouraging sensible drinking and better behaviour.” – Cllr Herring

(For more information:

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/communitysafety/alcohol/)

2) PLANNING SERVICES

Suffolk Coastal has gained a two star rating by the Audit Commission (an independent local government watchdog) for its planning service improvements. The Council has recently been provisionally awarded £220, 000 in recognition of its achievements and overall performance. This report indicated that 78%of planning applications are determined in 13 weeks, compared to the national average of 70% and that Suffolk Coastal deals with 20%more applications than the average council and yet is, on average in comparison to other districts, a service provided at a lower cost to Council Taxpayers.

“The report recognises that we have a good range of planning advice on offer, that we are effective in most cases when consulting and engaging with customers, and that our speed of dealing with applications has improved-indeed the facts show that we are in the top quarter of councils in the country.”- Cllr Smith.

Indeed that latest improvement to Suffolk Coastal’s planning services means that anyone submitting a planning application can pay online via the Council’s website and can monitor the progress of planning applications.

(For further information:

www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourdistrict/devcontrol/planningonline/)

3) BEST VALUE SATISFACION SURVEY

A Government survey entitled the 'Best Value Satisfaction Survey' conducted by the Council received 1757 responses from local residents and has put Suffolk Coastal top in Suffolk for Council performance and as an area of residence. This survey indicated that 61% of residents are satisfied with Council operation and 91% are satisfied with the district as a place of residence. Suffolk Coastal scored 3rd out of 56 districts in the category of cleanliness and 9th for waste collection. When asked about anti-social behaviour, parents not taking responsibility and teenagers hanging around were perceived to be two determining factors. Over 50% of those surveyed felt well informed about Council operations and 22% expressed an interest in getting more involved in the governance of their district.

4) GOING GREENER...

Suffolk Coastal is providing residents with the opportunity to insulate their cavity walls at a substantially reduced rate and thus receive a £50 credit to their Council Tax account. The Council is working on this measure in conjunction with British Gas to encourage more residents to cut their heating bills and help the environment by sufficiently insulating their property. This measure should provide annual savings of between £110-180. (For further information: 0845 9717731)

5) BRIDGING THE GENERATION GAP

SCTV (Suffolk Coastal Teen Voices) are currently filming a Generation Jigsaw DVD in seven different towns within the region in order to highlight different generations' priorities and concerns. The material will be showcased at the Riverside Centre, Stratford St Andrew on Wednesday 12th September at 5pm. SCTV is the first district-wide forum for young people; which strives to promote the reputation of young people in the district and to raise awareness of their needs for local services. This initiative is funded by Suffolk Coastal Local Strategic Partnership and co-ordinated by Keri Mohan. (For further information: keri.mohan@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk call 07795 092255)

6) FOOD SAFETY REPORTS GO PUBLIC

Suffolk Coastal's food safety team conduct in excess of 500 inspections a year and it is proposed that these results be made available to the general public both at the establishments' premises and on the Council's website. These premises are scored on the basis of food hygiene and safety, structure and cleaning and confidence in management. It has been proposed that proprietors will be permitted to comment on the website about their rating.