

Felixstowe Forward

Update July 2015

FELIXSTOWE
FORWARD

www.felixstoweforward.org.uk

Meetings held and attended

Attended:

East Suffolk Supporting Lives Connecting Communities Network, East Suffolk Business Association Network (Orwell Hotel), Pier Meeting Update, Landguard Meeting Update.

Presentations to:

Felixstowe Academy Year 10 Global Conference, Taking the Town Forward, FTC Council meeting

One to One meetings:

Richard Cornwell, EADT
Mark Livesey, Mark Holder, DCLG
Beacon East
Tim Clarke, Landguard Fort Trust
Stuart Clarke, Damco / Maersk
Heather Blemings, Gipping Homes

Overview

July has seen the culmination of the early work of Felixstowe Forward.

The engagement event on the 17th July at the Marlborough Hotel has dominated the month. It was a very successful event. There is now a window of opportunity open to Felixstowe Forward building on the energy, enthusiasm, commitment of the Felixstowe community that was clearly evident..

By chance Department Communities and Local Government approached Felixstowe Forward as the Coastal Community Team to

launch the national Coastal Revival Fund. Landguard Fort hosted the launch in the afternoon with a visit by Communities Minister Mark Francois.

On a separate matter I was pleased to volunteer my time at the Felixstowe Carnival 'Magic of the Movies'. The event was a triumph for Felixstowe and full credit to everyone on the committee who worked so tirelessly to put on a real show. Unfortunately, weather stopped the fun on Sunday.

We have had the benefit of Ben Williams, intern, working with us over the

summer. Ben evaluated the Book festival and a detailed report is now available. Ben has developed an online survey for the Carnival and I look forward to reading the report.

From launching a twitter feed last month I can report 75 followers. In the meantime do help spread the word and follow on twitter - @felixstowe4ward.

Helen Greengrass

Felixstowe Forward Change Director

Helen.greengrass@eastssuffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 01394 444577

Mobile: 07717 150993

Felixstowe – taking the town forward

A draft report on the public engagement event 'Felixstowe – taking the town forward' on 17 July is awaiting approval before being circulated.

126 people attended from a wide and diverse range of public, private, and the community and voluntary sector.

Tim Clarke closed the event with the announcement that Landguard Fort had been invited to host the national launch of the Coastal Revival Fund.

Coastal Communities Minister Mark Francois gave his support to over 100 new local teams that will help revive England's seaside towns and decide where investment goes.

The launch confirmed:
- £1m to fund 104 further Coastal Community teams, on top of the 12 existing pilots (Felixstowe)
- Community Fund £90m Coastal to continue
- £3m Coastal Revival Fund

'by bringing together local businesses, local leaders and volunteers, Coastal Community teams can help tap into their local heritage and make the most of our stunning seaside assets to make a success of the tourist trade' Coastal Communities Minister Mark Francois.

Felixstowe could not have had better national, regional and local promotion and in itself this must bode well for the future of the town.



Felixstowe Chamber of Commerce and Industry



It's been a busy summer for the Chamber team organising meetings and supporting local events.

The Chamber represents its membership via the East Suffolk Business Association Network and was able to welcome other Network members to a meeting held in Felixstowe for the first time. The meeting was well attended. Murray Gibson of Uniserve and Karen Last of Clayden Financial were speakers.

In June the Chamber ran a project funded by the East Suffolk Partnership Capacity Building Fund to engage retail

businesses and improve the representation of this sector within the Chamber. Independent retailers in the town centre were surveyed for their views on Chamber membership and town centre development and the outcomes were discussed at a subsequent meeting. We will be preparing an action plan to take the project forward and have already seen an increase in membership.

The outcomes of the survey have also been passed on to the Felixstowe Forward team and have been included in the draft report of the

engagement event held on the 17th.

The Chamber was proud to support the Felixstowe Book Festival which is bringing economic as well as a cultural benefits to the town. The customer survey carried out by Ben Williams showed that many of the visitors to the Festival spent considerable amounts of money in town centre shops and cafes.

BBC Radio Suffolk invited the Chamber Executive

Committee Chair, Rachel Cronin, and Chamber member Richard Ashford from Coe's to an interview in July. The topic was the shared space scheme and both Rachel and Richard highlighted the benefits of the scheme for local businesses and their customers.

Information on all the Chamber's activities can be found on our website: www.felixstowechamber.co.uk.

Update from Suffolk Coastal North

Martello Park: Play Area Update

Contractors have been on site since June. Installation of the new and inclusive use play equipment continues to progress well. There has been a minor delay to works due to inclement weather particularly the laying of the wet-pour surfacing to roundabout and multi-play access.

The Project Manager for is working closely with the Sutcliffe Play representative during the installation. A further site inspection is expected in Aug. The RoSPA inspection can then

be scheduled once all the installation is completed.

Park Information signs are being manufactured to complement the improvements, which included the new Public Toilets and Changing Places facility, made across the Park over the past 16 months.

Promenade Lighting: Planned Works

Regular monitoring has reported that a number of the lighting columns and also decorative lighting support columns have deteriorated and require



replacement. These will be replaced and with new lanterns fitted to the new lighting columns. The replacement works will also necessitate the removal and reattachment of the associated decorative lighting motifs, festoons and their support wire. These works are being planned to get underway in October 2015.

Clifflands: Additional Temporary Public Toilet

A temporary toilet, for use by the general public, has been added at the Clifflands car park site, from the end of July to early September. This will be locked overnight to help prevent misuse or vandalism.

Seafront Gardens

A full project update can be found at

<http://www.felixstoweseafrontgardens.org.uk/news/project-update-no-10-july-2015/>

Works across the gardens are progressing well.

Invitations have been distributed to the official opening of the Seafront Gardens on 26th Aug at the Spa Pavilion by which time we expect all garden to be open with the exception of the Town Hall gardens where work will continue on the shelter.

Gipping Homes will be inviting press to Felixstowe to promote the Bartlet in August and would like the Gardens to feature in their publicity.

Suffolk Coast (DMO) have requested copy for the Sunday Times, what's hot in 2016, a supplement due to be published in January 2016.

Events coming up:

Friends of the Seafront Gardens 5, 15 Aug, 19 Sept. Come and join this

merry group of willing community gardeners.

Perimeter Tours of Seafront Gardens: join Phil Hadwen, Felixstowe Society on 12 Aug, 9 and 20 Sept

Tours of the Seafront Gardens by the project team on 2, 16, 20, 23 Sept.

Please encourage visitors to review the Seafront gardens on Trip Adviser.

Full details of events and Trip Adviser visits are on the website.



Round Up:

Sports Hub

Over the past year Suffolk Coastal District Council has been working with key local sports clubs to evaluate the leisure offering in Felixstowe, asking clubs for feedback on what works well, what needs improvement and if they have any barriers to growing their well established teams.

Led by the clubs the Council formed a key working group that is made up of club representatives, Felixstowe Academy and Council officers. This group looks to secure funding to improve the tired on-site facilities and generate space for all clubs to increase participation at the

three main sporting sites; Eastwood Ho, Dellwood Avenue and Coronation Sports Ground.

This project is still in its early stages however it is a great success story for the town and highlights how collaborative working with different sections of the community can achieve common goals and in this case establish a long lasting sustainable sporting offer across Felixstowe.

Further updates will be released in upcoming issues of the Felixstowe Forward Fact File or for more specific queries please contact ActiveCommunities.scdc@east.suffolk.gov.uk.

Keri Ryder
Active Communities

Premier Inn

'We are looking forward to opening our new 60-bedroom Felixstowe Premier Inn in 2016. Once completed, the new hotel will deliver £4.5 million in fresh investment and 25 new year-round jobs for the local area, around half of which will be offered to young people who are not in education, employment or training (NEETS). As well as generating investment and jobs, Premier Inns typically drive increased footfall from new visitors who use local shops, cafes and restaurants – boosting the local economy. The partnership with Premier Inn and Felixstowe is already proving

to be that of a strong one as witnessed through our joint meeting with the town's District Council and Town Council'

James Parsons
Premier Inn - Ipswich



Landguard Partnership

This month Landguard was honoured to be chosen as the location for the launch of the Government's Coastal Revival Fund by the Communities Minister, the Rt. Hon. Mark Francois MP.

Such recognition highlights the huge potential of Landguard to become a regional visitor attraction with the right investment.

To that end the development of an Heritage Lottery Fund application continue. We have just received the results of a scoping report on the proposed works we are considering.

A successful Saturday was spent at the promoting Landguard, its attractions and events.

Unfortunately one of the Fort's main events also attracted the rain and proved to be a bit of a wash out. It didn't dampen the spirits of those who came including many Royal Marine veterans.

Hopefully the weather will be kinder for forthcoming summer events including a Toy and Model day and Punch and Judy puppet workshops. Planning is progressing for our big Halloween events and a new Christmas event.



The Café continues to be popular: We have added a new interpretation panel to the Visitor Centre which lets people know about the crucial work the Harwich Haven Authority carry out to keep the Orwell estuary (and all the ships, boats and sail craft on it) moving. We have been lucky enough to be assisted in our work with two students carrying out work experience at the Fort, Museum and Nature Reserve. Thanks go to Charlie and Athena for all their efforts.

Paul Grant
Project Officer ,Landguard Partnership

More information can be found at: www.discoverlandguard.co.uk

Landguard Nature Reserve

Port of Felixstowe's CEO Mr Clemence Cheng accepted an invitation for a short tour of the Nature Reserve. He was accompanied by Mr Alan Tinline the Ports Environment and Energy Manager.

The purpose of the invitation was to introduce Mr Cheng to part of the Landguard Partnership that funding from the Port has benefitted from and hopefully generate some genuine empathy for the Nature Reserve.

I was very pleased that Mr Cheng managed to spot a Ringed Plover on its' nest, he also commented on the

view across to the Port and reeled off the classification of one ship that was at berth. Mr Tinline outlined some steps that the Port has undertaken to lessen its environmental impact, he also invited me to take a closer look at the Port an offer, I will be sure to take up.

Three flora surveys completed with Hollesley botanist Laurie Forsythe. To date we have not found the elusive Stinking Goosefoot plant this year, although six Sea Holly plants were identified where none have been recorded before.



Five pairs of Ringed Plovers managed four chicks fledged successfully. Six chicks were predated, one infertile egg and four nest failures totalling sixteen eggs which possibly had their eggs predated by Gulls and Crows.

<http://www.discoverlandguard.org.uk/>
<http://www.discoverlandguard.org.uk/attractions/landguard-nature-reserve/rangers-blog/>
<https://twitter.com/landguardranger>

Chris Ryde
Landguard Ranger, Landguard Partnership



Keep up to date with what's happening in Felixstowe:

www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk

Follow Visit Felixstowe on facebook

Do you receive the regular Events Listing?

Contact Stephen Rampley, Events and Marketing Coordinator

Tel: 01284 675283

Email:

stephen.rampley@eastsuffolk.gov.uk



Marketing Felixstowe

We are in the early stages of developing our new Visit Felixstowe website, which will be launched later in the year. It will incorporate all the areas of the existing one, plus new interactive mapping, itineraries and other new features. Work is currently underway on updating the Business Directory (where to shop, places to eat) sections on

Visit Felixstowe. Our team are out and about visiting relevant establishments to collect new information and images.

Stephen Rampley

Please look out for the new logo The Great British Seaside which Felixstowe can adopt as a coastal community team.



Felixstowe Town Council

The Town Council are pleased to announce the launch of our new website www.felixstowe.gov.uk

The site has been designed to be clean, fresh and mobile responsive and we hope will be a useful resource to all – not just for information about the Town Council, its meetings, Councillors, staff and services – but also an

interactive tool giving lots more information about Felixstowe, our various partners and linking through to other key local sites such as www.visitfelixstowe.co.uk.

We hope that you will agree the new site is a vast improvement on the previous version, echoing the positive and aspirational feel of the town to anyone

who happens to visit it.

If you wish you can also now follow us on Twitter @FelixstoweTC or visit our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/FelixstoweTownCouncil.

Art on the Prom

More information www.artontheprom.org

Volunteers work throughout the year to make Art on the Prom possible and will be down on the prom from 5am on September 6th to help get the event underway. Throughout the day we need stewards to give out programmes so please contact us via the website or on 01394 671033 if you can help out for an hour.

Coming Up – Art on the Prom – 6 Sept

By popular demand this year's event will be open an extra half hour from 10am to 4.30pm. Over 100 artists will be displaying and selling original artwork along the seafront from the pier to the Spa gardens and on the approach road to the theatre.

Why not have a go at one of our six exciting free art activity tents at the bottom of Bent Hill? Try your hand at mono printing, china and

pebble boat mosaics, 3D floral picture postcards, clay tiles, 3D cardboard models or painted flags and banners.

This year we welcome a new sponsor, Gotelee solicitors, who, along with Felixstowe Town Council and Councillors Doreen Savage and Mike Deacon, are sponsoring the activity tents.

During the summer our artists have been working

with children from Grange, Trimley St Mary and Trimley St Martin schools and you can see their work displayed near the activity tents. We are very grateful to Jackaman's solicitors for supporting the work with schools.

To help make this an event for all the family we have an even wider range of music and entertainment than ever before.



Coming Up at the Triangle:

- 1 Aug Bombay Nite celebrating 25 years of trading
- 7 Aug Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patrol Fundraising event
- 8 Aug East Suffolk Association for the Blind
- 21 Aug Felixstowe Volunteer Coast Patro



Thank you ...

Thank you to the Carnival Association for another successful event. The carnival gets bigger and better every year and is a credit to everyone that got involved. Sadly weather disrupted the Sunday programme but Saturday was a huge success.

Contact us at:

Felixstowe Forward, Town Hall, Undercliff Road West, Felixstowe, IP11 2AG

Phone: 01394 444577

E-mail: Felixstowe.forward@eastsuffolk.gov.uk

Twitter: [@felistowe4ward](https://twitter.com/felistowe4ward)

Felixstowe Forward is a joint venture between Suffolk Coastal District Council, Felixstowe Town Council and Suffolk County Council which is working with a wide range of partners, to tackle the town's key challenges and bring in improvements.