

Keeping up with...

economic and cultural development

Improving prosperity and quality of life for all

Contents

Welcome to the first edition of the newsletter that will keep you up-to-date with the latest developments in the economic and cultural development portfolio. We plan to produce a monthly newsletter on e-mail. Please feel free to pass it on to anyone you think might be interested.

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About the new portfolio

Contact: Lisa
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Councillor Lisa Chambers is the county council's first portfolio holder for economic and cultural development.

Her appointment to the Cabinet shows how much importance the administration puts on the arts and culture and the important role it has to play across council services.

Her newly-formed portfolio includes: support for businesses; sport, including the Olympics; University Campus Suffolk; tourism; cultural services; support for the arts and museums; archaeology and historical records.



Lisa was born and brought up in Newmarket, attending St Felix Middle and Newmarket Upper schools. She moved to Red Lodge after marrying Neil. They have two children, Isabelle (10) and Alexander (7).

Lisa worked in business administration, but she is now a full-time mum and councillor. She has been a district councillor for four years and a county councillor for two years, representing Newmarket and Red Lodge.

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Turning Points Conference

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Over 100 delegates attended a major conference in Ipswich looking at the value of culture in modern day Suffolk.



The Turning Points conference brought together representatives from a wide range of arts groups, sports organisations and museums from across the region to explore the importance of culture in our communities and why local authorities should support them.

Delegates were told to think about culture, not in terms of the opera, but more as 'places to go and things to do'. Using this wider definition some 94% of people get involved in and enjoy culture in some way, and it brings huge benefits, not only in improving the individual's quality of life, but also in:

- improving health;
- boosting the local economy;
- improving exam results; and
- reducing crime.

Opening the conference council Leader, Councillor Jeremy Pembroke said he had witnessed first hand the benefits of the arts on vulnerable children and stressed how important he felt it was to give young people a sense of heritage and culture.

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Indian Summer Mela

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Thousands attended an event in Ipswich to celebrate Indian arts and culture.

The summer Mela, organised by the Ipswich and Suffolk Indian Association, was held at Christchurch Park in July.

Staff from the county council were on hand to ask visitors for their thoughts on creating a county where everyone lives and works happily alongside each other.

The results from the survey will feed into a community strategy being drawn up by the Suffolk Strategic Partnership, which is made up of representatives from the local authorities, Suffolk Police, Suffolk Primary Care Trust and other agencies.

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Suffolk Youth Games

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Waveney triumphed as winners, for the third year running, of the Suffolk Youth Games – one of the region's biggest sporting events.

Around 900 competitors took part in the inter-district competition organised by Suffolk Sport to encourage youngsters to take part in and enjoy a wide range of sports.



The 2012 Olympic Roadshow, currently touring the country to promote the London games, was at the event and gave people the chance to key in details of themselves to a computer programme to find out which sports would suit them best.

to give others a chance of taking part in a major competition. The aim is to encourage a lifetime love of sport by providing good quality coaching across the county and encouraging young people to join their local sports clubs.

Lisa Chambers said: "It was fantastic to attend this event and see so many families enjoying and participating in sport.

Congratulations to all the young people who took part."



This year's sports were: athletics, badminton, basketball, cricket, hockey, swimming, tag rugby and wheelchair basketball.

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2012 project manager appointed

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Suffolk has appointed a 2012 project manager to make sure the county gets the full benefits of the Olympic Games.

Adam Baker joins Suffolk County Council in September. His job will be to work with various partners to make sure Suffolk rises to the challenge and uses the games to:

- create a fitter, healthier county by encouraging more people to take part in and enjoy sport;
- boost tourism;
- make sure local businesses benefit from the games; and
- encourage more volunteering.

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Funding available

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New funding, worth £753,000 will shortly be available through the Suffolk Strategic Partnership.

The Government money has been given to Suffolk as a reward for meeting various performance targets for improving the quality of life for people living and working in the county.

It will be available to voluntary and community groups planning activities which:

- tackle childhood obesity;
- involve young people in community life;
- strengthen links between communities and the natural environment;
- help communities to reduce carbon emissions;
- promote social inclusion;
- support social enterprise;
- improve services in rural areas; and
- support the 2012 Olympics.

The strategic development unit produces an e-mail newsletter, the *Strategic Times*. You can download the latest copy at: www.suffolk.gov.uk/strategictimes

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What's on

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Although there is plenty happening in Suffolk, finding out what's on, where and when is not always easy.

Information is available, but not all in one place. To rectify this, we are hoping to set up comprehensive web-based listings of what is happening across the whole county.

Building on existing web sites (we don't want to create extra work) we hope to make this the place to look if you want to find something to do. The project will only be successful if all event organisers contribute to it and the web address is well promoted, so people know where to look.

Look out in future editions of this newsletter for more details.

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Contact this newsletter

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