Vote GREEN on 15th November

On Thursday 15th November there is an important Waveney District Council by-election in Beccles South. This is your chance to choose someone to represent you but also to have a say on the future direction of the whole Council.

About Nicky Elliott...

Nicky is a part-time teacher at Ringsfield School and also helps manage the three acre organic smallholding on which she has lived for the last 20 years. She is married to Graham Elliott, who has been the only Green Councillor on Waveney District Council for the last 5½ years. Their two grown-up children attended local schools in Ringsfield, Worlingham and Beccles and are now away at university.

For many years, she has been a Trustee of Beccles and Bungay Cycle Strategy, a local charity that promotes safer cycling in the Beccles area. She actively supports other local community initiatives including Beccles Lido and Beccles Public Hall and is an active member of Waveney Greenpeace.

Track record

Take a look at our track record over the last 5½ years. If Graham Elliott had not been elected as a Green Councillor both the Lido and the Public Hall would be permanently closed and sold off for development. But these facilities now have a long-term future at the very heart of Beccles. Without a Green Councillor the Big Dog Ferry would have been lost forever and it is possible that the Beccles rail loop would never have happened. The Green Party legacy for the town is already massive. With just one Green Councillor we achieved a lot for Beccles, with Nicky Elliott as a second Green Councillor the legacy will be set to grow.
Nicky Elliott's priorities...

In the face of government cuts which target the most vulnerable members of society, I will fight to retain vital services for young people and the elderly, and work to improve availability of affordable housing.

I believe everyone should have access to a healthy lifestyle, including nutritious food and exercise. Everyone should have access to a patch of land (garden or allotment) on which to grow vegetables and fruit. This gives the added benefit of exercise in the open air which can improve mental as well as physical health.

I believe that safe and attractive cycling and walking routes should be available for all short journeys in and around town, with improved and integrated public transport for further afield and for those people who cannot cycle.

I will fight for better insulation in homes so as to cut fuel bills, especially for those least able to afford them. I will seek to provide Solar PV panels on council owned properties to cut electricity bills for tenants and to earn the Council valuable cash through Feed-In-Tariffs.

If you would like a poster for your window please phone Graham or Nicky on 01502 714661

For further information on the Green Party please visit:-
www.waveney.greenparty.org.uk
or phone 01502 714661 | e-mail waveney@greenparty.org.uk

The deadline for REGISTERING to Vote is 31st October
The deadline for applying for a POSTAL VOTE is 31st October
The deadline for applying for a PROXY VOTE is 7th November
Phone Waveney District Council election office on 01502 523253 for details
Beccles Beer Festival

The first Beccles Beer Festival is a fund-raising event for Beccles Lido and will take place at Beccles Public Hall on Friday, Saturday and Sunday 9th to 11th November. Aside from raising funds for the Lido it is a chance to have a good look around the Public Hall which is now managed, and very soon to be owned, by local charity Beccles Lido Limited. These two facilities are fantastic assets to the town and after years under the shadow of closure they now both have a secure future under local community ownership.

The Beer Festival itself is a celebration of local ales with beer from all 13 breweries within 25 miles of Beccles Public Hall as well as a selection of local ciders (soft drinks and snacks will be available too). The area is fortunate to have a large number of small breweries so why not arrange to meet your friends and sample some fine local ales? Admission is FREE!

The Beer Festival opening hours are:
Friday 9th November, 6pm-11pm
Saturday 10th November, Noon-11pm
Sunday 11th November, Noon-11pm

There is live music on each evening session featuring Twisted Routes, Tosh, Baz’n’Mark and the Librarian Girls amongst many others. Full details of the line-up are on the website www.becclesbeerfestival.co.uk

Big Dog Ferry

The Big Dog Ferry was re-started in June 2012 under the ownership of Beccles Lido. The ferry runs between Beccles Lido and Geldeston Locks Inn and keeps to a timetable between Easter and October, with charter and fishing trips during the Winter. It is a 40 minute relaxing boat journey along the River Waveney with the opportunity to enjoy the wildlife en-route. There’s an option to disembark and enjoy a meal and a drink at the Geldeston Locks Inn, or stay on board for a round trip. If you’re feeling energetic you could take a one-way ticket and walk back on delightful footpaths. During the winter season ferry trips are available by prior arrangement only. For bookings and further information contact Big Dog on 07532 072761 or visit www.bigdogferry.co.uk
Beccles Lido
Beccles Lido is a success story of national significance which was recognized in November 2011 with a personal Big Society award from the Prime Minister. It has demonstrated the power of local communities and has given the town a sense of pride. There were very few people who thought that a bunch of unqualified local people could turn a derelict facility into one that the whole region is proud of. And even fewer thought they could turn a facility making a £70,000 loss each year into an operation that makes a modest profit. There is a huge volunteer effort behind this success but the Lido has also created 24 new seasonal jobs which are much sought after, particularly by young people. Although the really hard work has been completed it will require continued fund-raising and input from volunteers to ensure it remains a valuable facility for the next 50 years. There are many ways to help the Lido. Come to one of their fund-raising events (eg Beccles Beer Festival, but also the regular monthly coffee mornings and quiz & chips), offer to volunteer (either prior to opening or during the season) or by joining the Beccles Lido Lottery. The Lottery raises over £5,000 annually and each month there are three lucky winners with the first prize now over £250 and if more people sign up to the lottery the prize money will grow! For more details visit www.beccleslido.com

Beccles Public Hall
This is the latest success story in Beccles. After years of uncertainty and the threat of closure the Public Hall now has a rosy future as well as a long history. It has been taken over by the same charity that runs the Lido but is run independently with separate finances and separate volunteer base. Since taking over in April the new management has cut the costs of hiring the hall for most users but has managed to increase revenue by increasing the use of the hall and by running an effective in-house bar facility, as well as promoting a varied programme of its own fund raising events. The new management team have already made many improvements to the fabric of the hall and have plans in place for major renovation when grant funding is achieved. As with the Lido, additional funds are required, and so please do come to one of the events at the Hall, with something for every taste! Donations are also welcome, as are new volunteers to help with works at the hall or during events. Further details can be found at www.becclespublichall.com or phone 01502 712329

Beccles Rail Loop
The biggest improvement to public transport in eastern Suffolk for a generation will commence on Monday 10th December 2012 when the Beccles Rail Loop is brought into use after a campaign dating back to the 1980s. The improvements at Beccles station will enable an hourly train service from Beccles to both Ipswich and Lowestoft, replacing the current service which runs every two hours. Work on the island platform is due to take place in November with access via a ramp from The Avenue. It will also be the catalyst for the regeneration of the whole Beccles station area helping to make the railway station a gateway to the town that we can all be proud of.