



Mr A Hounsell
Fairfields
Mill Lane
Brandeston
Woodbridge IP13 7AP
Dear Mr Hounsell

Please ask for: Mr D Kennedy
Direct Dial: 01394 444456
Our Ref: PC/FAD

Date: 23rd February 2010

Raising Fraud Awareness

I am writing to you in your capacity as Clerk to the Town or Parish Council, to advise you of Suffolk Coastal District Council's efforts to reduce the threat of fraud against its finances, and to seek your Town / Parish Council's co-operation and support in this respect.

Nationally, fraud (and in particular benefit fraud) is estimated as costing Local Government over £100 million per annum. In comparison with other Local Authorities Suffolk Coastal has sustained comparatively few losses from fraudulent activity, however, we are not complacent and remain committed to safeguarding our finances and the public services they fund. Our dedicated counter-fraud service, the Corporate Counter Fraud Unit, is currently examining how we can further reduce losses from fraud by improving how we deter, prevent and detect all forms of fraudulent activity committed against us.

As Town and Parish Councils are at the heart of the community, we are asking for your suggestions in terms of how we can better promote our anti-fraud message and are asking whether you would like us to forward to you a number of publicity posters (available in A3 and A5 size) advertising our fraud hotline telephone number.

We also have information concerning fraud and ethical wrongdoing and information on how to report suspicions of fraud or corruption to us on the Suffolk Coastal website:

<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourcouncil/fraud/default.htm>
<http://www.suffolkcoastal.gov.uk/yourhome/benefits/fraud/default.htm>

If you would like any further information concerning the work of the Corporate Counter Fraud Unit or would like posters advertising the Council's fraud hotline, please contact us on either 01394 444456 or 01394 383789 Ext. 2456 or by e-mail at fraud.investigation@suffolkcoastal.gov.uk.

Yours sincerely

Mr D Kennedy
Corporate Counter Fraud Unit