

To: All MSDC Members

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



November 2021

Dear councillor,

Please find below a round-up of council activity during October that we hope will assist you in providing any regular update to your towns and parishes.

As you know, you also receive regular councillor updates, as well as all media releases as they are issued. They can also be seen at any point during the month [on our website here](#).

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

Suffolk's public health bosses have asked the Government for extra help to fight Covid amid increasing pressure on our county's hospitals and some of the highest rates of infection in the country.

The request for Suffolk to become an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) for up to five weeks is being submitted by Public Health Suffolk on behalf of public sector partners - and is intended to secure additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure. [Read the full story](#)

To help respond to queries regarding vaccinations, including boosters and jabs for 12 to 15-year-olds, our NHS partners have created a new look homepage for [their vaccination website](#) including information about all the clinics they offer, together with FAQs and eligibility criteria.

Regular bulletins continue to be produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through Working Together, the monthly Councillor Update or [via the Suffolk County Council website](#).

In the meantime, we continue to play our part in response to the pandemic, alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum and continuing to offer support to our communities and businesses. Please see the council website for more.

Work to continue on blueprint for districts' future development

Public examination of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan – the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts - has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow the councils further time to review its evidence. [Read the full story](#)

£1.5m funding boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities

Town and Parish Councils across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received £1.5 million in neighbourhood CIL last month – paving the way for a range of vital community facilities and projects. [Read the full story](#)

Green light for further funding to support vital infrastructure in Mid Suffolk

In addition, £118,000 of CIL funding was allocated last month for community centre improvements and sports facilities in Debenham, Elmswell, Rickinghall and Framsdon. [Read the full story](#)

First Local Energy Showcase hailed a success

With more attention than ever turning to sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils hosted business owners and community groups at their first Local Energy Showcase. [Read the full story](#)

Tree for Life scheme welcomes applications from new parents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2021 applications.

The scheme, which benefits families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across our districts, is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree. [Read the full story](#)

Councils light the road to a greener future

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have committed to reducing streetlight intensity across their districts – protecting plant and wildlife, and reducing energy use, in line with biodiversity and climate change ambitions. [Read the full story](#)

New iPad lending scheme to help residents get online

Suffolk Libraries and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joining forces to help residents get online with a new iPad lending scheme – supporting those who need a little extra help to access services in an increasingly digital world. [Read the full story](#)

Residents have their say on name for Needham Lake's café and visitor centre

As work continues on the development of the new café and visitor centre at Needham Lake, Mid Suffolk District Council called on the community to vote on its name. [Read the full story](#)

Stowmarket business help those experiencing domestic abuse

Mid Suffolk District Council urged businesses and organisations in Stowmarket to take part in a domestic abuse awareness event last month – empowering them to spot the signs of abuse and help address it. [Read the full story](#)

New careers festival for Stowmarket

Students found out more about getting a job in film, music or gaming as well as a range of other careers and opportunities during an exciting new festival in Stowmarket during October's half term.

[Read the full story](#)

Councils mark National Homelessness Day

Preventing homelessness is a priority for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. Everyone needs somewhere to live and a place that they can call home. [Read the full story](#)