

Stradbroke Parish Council Report by Councillor Julie Flatman

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

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 existing fortnightly updates for councillors, or [via the Suffolk County Council website](#).

An update on the vaccine rollout can be found on the [SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website](#).

We continue to play our part in response to the pandemic, alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum, supporting in the event of local outbreaks as well as continuing to offer support to our communities and businesses. Please see the council website for more information.

Councils' Joint Local Plan examination to reconvene in September

Hearing sessions for the examination of our councils' Joint Local Plan are expected to resume again in September following a change of date – enabling them to be fully inclusive, whilst also ensuring public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is anticipated that the Stage 1 sessions, originally scheduled for June and July, will now take place over a concentrated period from September, with Stage 2 hearing sessions in mid-Autumn as originally planned. [Find out more](#)

Next steps for councils' biodiversity and climate change plans agreed

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have given the go ahead for £97k for projects aimed at boosting biodiversity and tackling climate change across their districts. [Find out more](#)

New 'virtual' high street supports market town's recovery

Shopping in Stowmarket is now just a click away thanks to the launch of new Virtual High Street sites. Over 100 new businesses have signed up to new sites in Hadleigh and Stowmarket, joining over 130 already signed up to the platform in Sudbury. [Find out more](#)

Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee approves CIFCO plans for 2021/22

Councillors on Overview & Scrutiny have approved CIFCO's annual business plan ahead of its review by Full Council, with the property investment company having now brought in more than £5.4m to help fund services and projects for residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

[Find out more](#)

Councils to provide financial lifeline for local projects

Don't forget! Applications are now open for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Locality Awards funding – enabling communities to improve facilities, learn new skills and work towards becoming environmentally sustainable. [Find out more](#)

Celebrations to mark Armed Forces Week

The council proudly flew the flag for our Armed Forces last month with a range of events to show support for our service personnel. [Find out more](#)

Weight for it... £2.2m refurbishment means healthy future for Mid Suffolk

Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre opened its doors last month on its new £2.2m upgrade and extension, supporting residents' health and wellbeing with upgraded gym, poolside features and changing rooms. [Find out more](#)

Work underway on visitor centre and café for Needham Lake

Work has now started on the new café and visitor centre at Needham Lake – improving facilities at the popular tourist attraction, as well as boosting visitor numbers and spend in the local high street. [Find out more](#)

Plans to support new businesses in Eye

Councillors on Mid Suffolk District Council cabinet have agreed to progress plans to breathe new life into a derelict building in Eye town centre – with the aim of transforming it into a supportive space for fledgling businesses. [Find out more](#)

Changes agreed to social housing allocation system to ensure fairness and consistency

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council cabinets both recently agreed amendments to Gateway to Homechoice - the lettings system used to allocate social housing across the local authority areas of Babergh, Braintree, Colchester, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Maldon and Mid Suffolk.

The changes have been made in response to national legislative and policy changes, including a new Code of Guidance issued by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in December 2020, and will ensure that key decisions can be made fairly and consistently by all Gateway local authorities. [Find out more](#)

Performance update

Cabinet members for Mid Suffolk District Council recently considered the latest performance reports, highlighting the council's outstanding response to the pandemic, whilst continuing to deliver against the Corporate Plan. The full report provides an insight into what service areas have achieved over the last quarter and is available to view on the council's website. [Find out more](#)