

To: All MSDC Members

## Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



November 2019

### General Election – December 12

As you will be aware, a General Election has been called for Thursday 12 December, 2019. We will be sending out the Notice of Parliamentary Election next Friday (8 November) and we would be grateful if you could ask for this to be displayed on all parish noticeboards. The issue of the Notice of Election also triggers pre-election period – which restricts some activities. You can find out more in this [guide by the Local Government Association](#).

### Haughley and Thurston adopt Neighbourhood Plans

Two communities have seen their Neighbourhood Development Plans adopted as part of Mid Suffolk's Development Plan, making them the fifth and sixth areas in the district to complete their Neighbourhood Plans. [Read more on our website](#).

### More free swimming for youngsters

Following successful summer take up, Mid Suffolk District Council has extended its free swims offer during half term and will also be running the initiative over the Christmas holidays too which aims to help promote healthier and active lifestyles in the districts

Please promote the free swimming ahead of the Christmas holidays from 20 December 2019 to 5 January 2020 inclusive at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre and Stradbroke Swimming Pool.

### Fly-tipper billed more than £1,500 for dumping waste in Stowupland

Mr Andrew Wall, who was living in the High Street, Needham Market at the time of his offence, dumped 12 sacks of household waste in November 2018 in Stonebridge Lane, Stowupland.

Sgt Brian Calver from the Suffolk's Rural Policing team found the sacks during a routine patrol. Following a guilty plea, the court fined Mr Wall £1,000, along with costs of £477.41 and a victim surcharge of £100. [Read the full story](#)

The Suffolk Waste Partnership, which consists of all the Suffolk councils including the County and partners, is also hoping to launch a campaign over the winter aimed at reducing fly tipping in Suffolk. Please encourage parish clerks to look out for information over the coming weeks to find out how they can support the campaign.

### **Volunteers mark World Mental Health Day**

On World Mental Health Day (10 October) Stowmarket Voluntary and Statutory Partnership (VASP) raised awareness by promoting mental health services available in Suffolk. They invited residents to join them to find out more about the mental health services available in their town offering tea, coffee and cakes to those passing their town centre market stall. [Read the full story](#)

### **Free recycling talks for residents**

Suffolk's Recycling Centres offer free 'Reduce, Reuse and Recycle - not a Waste of time!' sessions to interested parties to learn more about ways to reduce waste and recycling.

Neighbours, parish or community groups are invited to set up a session, offering an ideal additional or alternative way to access information about recycling which is also available on the [Suffolk Recycling website](#).

To book a visit from their Information and Education Manager any interested parties can email [Sharon Lockhart](#)

Please do share this information with your parish newsletter editors to encourage the use resources available to residents.

### **Hot topics on social media**

- Warning of conservation officer scam calls
- Free swims

For agendas and minutes of council meetings, please visit the [Democratic Services homepage](#)