

To: All MSDC Members

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



September 2021

Dear councillor,

Please find below a round-up of council activity during August 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

August saw us reach the end of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown, however our work to support the district's recovery continues.

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.

Statement regarding Afghan refugees

August also saw the Government announce its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort.

You can [read our statement in full here](#) and a [Suffolk County Council webpage](#) has been created in the event of offers of help from your towns and parishes.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk join calls for devolution talks with Government

Together with other public sector leaders in Suffolk, we wrote to the Secretary of State responsible for local government this month, to say we welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk.

[Find out more](#)

Green light for Gateway 14

Initial plans, with conditions, were approved this month for Gateway 14 – Stowmarket’s 2.45 million square foot, innovation, business and logistics park.

[Find out more](#)

Show homes give first glimpse of council investment in Needham Market

Show homes in Needham Market opened their doors to potential buyers last month – in the first phase of the council’s multi-million investment in the town.

[Find out more](#)

Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses

Businesses and community organisations are being urged to tackle climate change by joining Suffolk’s first ever showcase event celebrating sustainability and green energy. Please encourage anyone who may be interested in your towns and parishes to take part.

[Find out more](#)

Summer events planned for residents and visitors

This summer, high streets and tourist locations across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are preparing a host of events and activities as they welcome residents and visitors back to their high streets and places safely following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

[Find out more](#)

Green oasis set to strengthen Mid Suffolk's biodiversity

Almost three acres of land near Stowmarket has been bought by Mid Suffolk District Council to provide a green oasis for the town – as part of the council's biodiversity plans.

[Find out more](#)

Work begins on Woolpit community car park

Mid Suffolk councillors were joined by NHS representatives last month for the start of construction on a much-needed car park serving Woolpit Health Centre and the local community.

[Find out more](#)

Minister 'drops in' to Holiday Activities and Food programme

Children and Families Minister Vicky Ford and MP Jo Churchill joined Mid Suffolk District councillors in a visit to The Mix's summer activities, made possible by Government funding and support from the council.

[Find out more](#)

2021 Annual Canvass continues

To help streamline the annual canvass process we are continuing to encourage residents to update their household details online.

[Find out more](#)

Districts to play crucial role in international cycling event

Babergh and Mid Suffolk host the Sprints and challenging Queen of the Mountains climb in stage six of the Women's Tour.

[Find out more](#)