

To: All MSDC Members

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



December 2021

Dear councillor,

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

Thank you to everyone who has helped amplify public health messages within their communities over recent weeks, particularly with the recent discovery of the new Omicron variant and increased precautions as a result.

We continue to use our social media channels to keep everyone informed and to share messages from our NHS and public sector partners – including information on vaccinations and boosters, FAQs and eligibility and advice for residents on protecting themselves and others.

We also continue to provide regular bulletins giving a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with case numbers and 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 in order to support our residents and communities.

£5.1 million for Mid Suffolk recovery

An investment pledge of £5.1m has been made by Mid Suffolk District Council to help deliver a range of projects to boost the district's recovery from the impact of the Covid pandemic. [Find out more here.](#)

Feedback sought on future development in districts

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have published their draft five-year housing land supply statements – outlining the anticipated supply of new homes between now and 2026. [Find out more here.](#)

New name for Needham Lake café and visitor centre announced

Councillors have marked the 'topping out' of the new Needham Lake café and visitor centre and announced the name will be Duck & Teapot following a public vote. [Find out more here.](#)

Shop Local on the Virtual High Street this Christmas

We're encouraging everyone to shop local this Christmas and find the perfect gift on the Virtual High Street, with a raft of discounts and offers for the festive season. [Find out more here.](#)

Clampdown on landlords, thanks to funding boost for Suffolk councils

Families living in privately rented cold and draughty properties in Suffolk can look forward warmer homes in future thanks to a new campaign targeting landlords who fail to meet minimum energy efficiency standards. [Find out more here.](#)

Community car park plays crucial role in vaccination drive

A new car park serving Woolpit Health Centre and the local community was official opened by Mid Suffolk councillors and NHS representatives this month – securing much-needed parking for Covid vaccination patients. [Find out more.](#)

Funding for Elmswell Primary School expansion given go-ahead

A Community Infrastructure Levy bid from Suffolk County Council to finance further school places in Elmswell received the green light this month, with Mid Suffolk's cabinet approving £1.56m towards the project. [Find out more here.](#)

Avian influenza (bird flu)

The Chief Veterinary Officers for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have agreed to bring in new measures to help protect poultry and captive birds. The new housing measures came into force across the UK from 00:01 on Monday 29 November 2021 to protect poultry and captive birds from avian

influenza following a number of confirmed cases across Great Britain in recent weeks. [Find out more here.](#)

Please help spread the message within your local area to inform anyone who keeps birds. You may also wish to share these [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts by Suffolk Trading Standards on any relevant social media pages your town or parish manages.