

To: All MSDC Members

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



October 2021

Dear councillor,

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

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

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

The regular [Suffolk Coronawatch bulletin](#) continues to give an up-to-date snapshot of case numbers across the county and shows how Babergh compares to our neighbouring districts and borough.

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

In the meantime, 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 as they recover from the impact of the pandemic.

You can find more information of specific developments, such as the launch of our Business Innovation Support Scheme and our new Wellbeing Strategy, below.

Success for Babergh and Mid Suffolk at national awards

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils received national recognition this month for their innovative support of communities through Covid and beyond – winning bronze in the overall Council of the Year category of the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards 2021, silver for service improvements by our Planning Enforcement team and gold for our Virtual High Street initiative supporting local retailers.

[Read the full post](#)

The councils' Housing Solution team was also highly commended in the 'Community Heroes' category of the Municipal Journal (MJ) Awards.

[Read the full post](#)

Councils prioritise residents' wellbeing

Babergh and Mid Suffolk councillors have given the go-ahead to a new Wellbeing Strategy – building upon the councils' continued commitment to helping its residents live happy, healthy and independent lives.

[Read the full post](#)

Business Innovation Support Scheme to boost business growth in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Independent businesses on and off the high street can now benefit from a new grant scheme designed to support business growth and innovation.

[Read the full post](#)

Ultra-low emission HVO fleet takes to the road

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are the first rural UK councils to switch their fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) – slashing carbon emissions by up to 90% and supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims.

[Read the full post](#)

Go ahead for solar carport plans

Work is now underway on solar carports to help power two council-owned leisure centres - as part of council plans to tackle climate change - following planning approval.

[Read the full post](#)

Joint Local Plan public examination resumes

The Hearing Sessions for the public examination of our Joint Local Plan have resumed. Sessions are being held virtually, enabling them to be fully inclusive, whilst also ensuring public safety, and are being live streamed in real time on the councils' [Joint Local Plan YouTube channel](#), should you wish to follow the plan's progress.

Councils empower communities to plan for the future

Proposals to streamline the Neighbourhood Plan process have been approved by Babergh and Mid Suffolk councillors – supporting the councils' ongoing ambition for residents to help shape development in the districts.

[Read the full post](#)

Districts gear up to celebrate world-class cyclists

Spectators of AJ Bell's Women's Tour can enjoy an array of community events in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, as riders race through the districts on Saturday 9 October.

[Read the full post](#)

Chance to have your say on the future of parking

Everyone is encouraged to have their say on Babergh and Mid Suffolk's future parking strategy - with residents, businesses and visitors across the districts urged to help shape plans for the next decade.

[Read the full post](#)

Virtual High Street expands to Eye and Needham Market

The Virtual High Street has welcomed another 40 businesses onto the platform as it expands to Eye and Needham Market.

[Read the full post](#)

Mid Suffolk calls for Secretary of State to step into 'SnOasis' debate

Mid Suffolk District Council is calling on the Government to determine the fate of a £500m tourist resort by ruling on the future of a neighbouring landfill site.

[Read the full post](#)

Green light for new business hub in Eye

Plans to refurbish 6 Cross Street, which has stood empty for over a decade, have been approved by Mid Suffolk District Council.

[Read the full post](#)

Time Machine coming to Stowmarket

History will come alive on the streets of Stowmarket on Saturday 9 October, as Time Machine, a one-day cultural festival arrives in the town.

[Read the full post](#)

Mid Suffolk Chairman adds his support to Kit Out the Nation

Mid Suffolk District Council Chairman Cllr Paul Ekpenyong has supported the [BBC's Kit Out the Nation](#) campaign by donating kit at the Stowmarket Football Club drop off point.

[Read the full post](#)

Chance to give views on proposals to improve walking and cycling link in Stowmarket

Stowmarket residents have the chance to give their views on proposed improvements to a walking and cycling route between Lowry Way and the town centre.

[Read the full post](#)

Work progressing well on Woolpit community car park

Construction is well underway on a much-needed community car park, which will initially provide 120-spaces for Woolpit Health Centre to help with the Covid-19 and flu vaccination efforts this winter. Drainage and earth works have already finished and the car park is on schedule to be completed in November.

[Read more about the project](#)

'Stepping up' for Recycle Week

The Suffolk Waste Partnership encouraged residents to Step It Up for Recycle Week last month.

[Read the full post](#)

