

Appendix C – County Cllr. Penny Otton’s Report to Full Council –

- Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk
- Welcome Guidance for Ukrainians arriving in the UK:
<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/welcome-a-guide-for-ukrainians-arriving-in-the-uk>
- Motion Passed, Further Commitment to Suffolk Rivers - Full Council convened on the 19th May. I proposed a motion for greater commitment towards improving rivers in Suffolk. Currently, all Suffolk rivers have been reported by the Environment Agency to have failed government standards. Increased pollution comes from a rise in sewage discharges, as well as chemicals used in agriculture that run off into waterways. Our motion committed SCC to improving rivers, investigating what more can be done to enhance waterways, and increase engagement and support with farmers and environmental groups in any future strategies. Our motion was passed unanimously.
- Current petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract - Our Group has started a petition, demanding that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year. Since Kier’s arrival, our Group has seen astronomical prices for the maintenance of Suffolk’s highways. Some of these prices include £5,000 for a pair of dropped kerbs. Our Group believes an in-house bid from SCC to take back control of Suffolk Highways is needed to get things done. We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council.
Please sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won’t count!):
https://www.petitions.net/for_suffolk_county_council_to_develop_an_in-house_bid_for_suffolk_highways_maintenance
- National Grid consultation - National Grid have released proposals to increase pylon networks across Suffolk’s countryside, in light of the Government’s strategy to grow the East of England’s offshore electricity generation. Our Group are strongly against the development of more pylon networks impacting Suffolk’s rural landscape and cultural heritage. The proposals are even criticised by Conservative MPs Dan Poulter and James Cartledge. Our Group will put pressure on this Council to respond to the consultation, in collaboration with Essex and Norfolk, stressing the significant need for sea-level cables that reduce the community impacts of National Grid’s proposals. Our Group will respond ourselves if the Conservative fail to address our concerns. If you would like to voice your opinion on the matter, click here (Deadline is the 16th June):
<https://eastangliagreen.participatr.io/index.php?contentid=13>
- Thurston Rail Crossing: at the council meeting on 19th May the cabinet member put a motion asking for Network Rail to get on with the Haughley junction. I asked that they include Thurston when speaking with Network Rail to get them to get on with the promised feasibility study.
- Diversion: having asked it was agreed to change the diversions and to make far better direction signs.
- Street Lights and Belisha Beacons: having asked I’m pleased it has been agreed to put cowls on lights to stop shining into private properties. Which have been done.
- Extension to Thurston Community College: have been sent the plans. If there are concerns let me know.
- Liaison Meeting with TCC: met with Jean Wheeler we have agreed to restart the liaison meetings

Appendix D -

District Cllr. Harry Richardson’s Report to Full Council –

- At our Annual Meeting on Thursday 26th May Cllr James Caston was elected Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council, replacing Cllr Paul Ekpenyong. Cllr Ekpenyong raised £1,545 for East Anglia’s Children’s Hospices as his chosen charity during his year in office.
- There have also been a number of developments in recent weeks, so I have included below a

summary of the main updates from the last month:

- Councils consider plan to help residents tackle cost of living - Cabinet members at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are to consider a five-point action plan during meetings next month, to support residents and staff through the cost-of living crisis. In a report published this week, the councils outlined the stark financial challenges faced by many families, with increasing food and energy bills and rising inflation leading to falling living standards and risk of recession. In response, the councils are considering a 5-point plan, bringing together work already underway with new initiatives. The plan brings together a suite of measures that focus on providing advice and support, maintaining people's health, and building on work already underway since the launch of the councils' Communities and Wellbeing strategies. This includes support and funding for local Citizens' Advice centres and local community organisations; specialist support for council tenants struggling to pay their rent; a wide range of discretionary payments, grants, and reductions for those facing financial hardship; and the Holiday Activity and Food programme to combat holiday hunger for families who are struggling through the school breaks.
- In addition, the councils will be looking to expand the work its is already doing around social prescribing, working in partnership with health colleagues and partners to help residents maintain good health – whether in our green spaces or through access to leisure facilities.
- Proposals also exploring new possibilities such as a discretionary fuel and travel voucher scheme to tackle loneliness for people who are isolated or vulnerable – ensuring family and friends can continue to visit.
- Pending approval at next months' meetings, one of the first actions will be to appoint a Costof-Living Co-ordinator to help key agencies across the districts to join forces so help can be deployed where it is needed most.
- Plans to revitalise sport, leisure, and wellbeing in Stowmarket to be considered - Stowmarket could soon benefit from a new leisure and wellbeing hub if funding is agreed by Mid Suffolk District Council next month. The funding will enable Mid Suffolk District Council to take the proposals to the next stage and will include developing a detailed design for the masterplan, holding public consultation events to share plans and prepare and submit a planning application for the project. During this phase, the council will work in collaboration with partners and stakeholders to ensure the site will be used most effectively for everyone involved. The proposal for the health and wellbeing hub in Stowmarket will outline plans to bring together a range of sports, leisure and health facilities to create a real benefit to local communities. The masterplan incorporates two parcels of land in the northwest of Stowmarket, including land surrounding Stowmarket High School and Chilton Fields. Currently these sites offer sport provision for rugby, cricket, football, and tennis. Much of the existing sports provision is in need of renewal and replacement and the project aims to provide modern, sustainable sport and wellbeing facilities, created by strong partnership working. The draft masterplan includes a 4g football pitch and a multi-use 2g pitch, a mini athletics track, new sports pavilion, a multi-use games area, four indoor sports courts, new cricket square and nets and a multi-agency wellbeing hub. In addition, the proposal will reshape current car parking at Chilton Fields, create additional parking at the wellbeing hub as well as introducing a multi-surface perimeter track to encourage running and walking. In addition to creating modern facilities for sport and leisure and access to a range of health and wellbeing services, the sport and wellbeing hub will also provide a boost to the local economy supporting sport and health providers and creating job and training opportunities in this growth sector. The proposed masterplan has been developed in partnership with a number of key stakeholders including Suffolk County Council, Stowmarket

Town Council, local school, leisure centre, local CCGs, Active Suffolk, local sports clubs and Sport England.

- School's Out activities to support families throughout May half-term - Den-building, archery, outdoor cooking, filmmaking, sport, art, and science are among a boredom-busting programme of activities this half-term, thanks to Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and partners. The varied programme of activities aim to help families through the holidays, as part of the councils' commitment to supporting residents' health and wellbeing.
- Explore Outdoor are once again offering outdoor cooking masterclasses to families during the school break in several locations across the districts – cementing the councils' commitment to reducing health inequalities, as set out in their recently adopted Wellbeing Strategy. Families are given the opportunity to learn how to cook a hearty and nutritious meal in the outdoors. In addition, they receive a free box of ingredients and recipe cards so they can prepare healthy, tasty food at home – supporting the councils' ongoing ambition to combat holiday hunger. Explore Outdoor will also be providing a range of outdoor activities, including archery, shelter building, firelighting and many other outdoor pursuits. Additionally, there will be sessions for football, arts and crafts, dodgeball, fun science experiments and filmmaking workshops at locations across the districts including Brantham, Claydon, Hadleigh, Stowmarket and Sudbury. Although free places are allocated on a needs basis – with local schools identifying families in receipt of free school meals or eligible for other reasons – children not meeting this criteria, are also welcome to participate in many of the events for a small cost.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk to host sprints and climbs for The Women's Tour stage one race. On 6 June, The Women's Tour will race through Babergh and Mid Suffolk after setting off from Colchester, heading towards the finish on Angel Hill in Bury St Edmunds. The race, which is one of the major events for the Festival of Suffolk which celebrates the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, features sprint and climb sections (known as Queen of the Mountains) to test the riders' endurance. This year's race will see all endurance sections take place in Babergh. The sprints will be in Holbrook and Hadleigh, while the Queen of the Mountain climbs will be in Brantham and Bildeston.

District Cllr. Austin Davies' Report to Full Council –

- MSDC Meeting – The Mid Suffolk District Council AGM was held in May. Conservatives refused an offer to share appointments based on experience and elected their nominated candidates to all chair and deputy chairs except the security committee chair. Mr James Caxton is the new Chair.
- Housing Revenue Account - Mid Suffolk District Council tenant satisfaction survey initial results from 300 households have been shared:
 - 77% thought that they were treated fairly.
 - 74% were pleased with house repairs.
 - 69% pleased with the quality of their homes.
 - 53% thought that their views were listened to and acted upon.
 - 51% considered MSDC complaint handling was good.
- Our long-term Council Housing strategy has been presented. 65 affordable homes should be added each year. An action plan is in place to raise all Environmental Performance Certificates of our housing stock to at least a C level by 2030 by investing £14.5 million on improving energy efficiency.
- MSDC ring fenced CIL - Met with local Doctors exploring the potential to provide a Surgery in Thurston. Unfortunately, even if an appropriate location was available, they are not able to staff it because of a shortage of GPs.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 01.06.2022

- Thurston Community College is restarting co-ordination meeting and has offered to cooperate with the Thurston Library project.
- Planning - Raised an enforcement enquire reference Barrells Road development fencing.
- Ukrainian support - MSDC constituents have welcomed 95 Ukrainians.

Lower Tier Local Authority	Number of Visa applications	Number of Visas issued	Number of arrivals in the UK by sponsor location
Babergh	127	104	57
East Suffolk	280	249	108
Ipswich	81	65	35
Mid Suffolk	200	165	95
West Suffolk	284	236	134