

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

- Proposed motion that would have seen speed limits lowered to 20mph across Suffolk - At Full Council on the 22<sup>nd</sup> October, the LDGI Group proposed a motion that would implement a default 20mph speed limit for roads in residential areas and communities across Suffolk’s towns and villages, with 30mph limits to be retained only in exceptional circumstances. The motion was supported by both the LDGI Group and the Labour Group, and though some Conservative councillors privately expressed support, unfortunately they were whipped to vote against it. As the seconder of the motion I said “20mph is supported by numerous organisations, including ROSPA, the UN and the 20splenty campaign. “By rejecting this motion, the Conservative administration have lost a massive opportunity to improve the lives of their residents, to make the air cleaner, to get more people walking and cycling, and to reduce deaths and injuries on our roads.”
- SCC has separately announced a publicity campaign “to encourage walking and cycling” that will consist of posters and radio adverts, along with £235,000 funding for Quiet Lanes Suffolk, which parishes can apply for. My group has called for greater commitment from the administration to support walking, cycling and road safety.
- Submitted response to ‘Planning for the Future Consultation’ - following the Government’s announcement of a consultation on their proposed reforms to the planning system, my group has submitted a response representing the issues of Suffolk’s urban and rural areas. The key points of our response were:
  - Planning decisions must be kept local, as local communities have unique circumstances that will not be reflected if all decisions are taken at a national level.
  - Planning approval should not be automatic or determined by AI decision-making, which could lead to inappropriate development that does not meet the needs of the local community.
  - The environment must be safeguarded.
  - Quality must not be lost for the sake of speed.
  - Affordable housing must be protected.
- County Council AGM - this month saw the Annual General Meeting of the County Council, which I attended. The AGM should have taken place in May but was delayed due to COVID-19. Cllr Graham Newman was elected Chairman of the County Council until the next AGM in May 2021. Cllr Louis Busuttill was elected Vice Chairman. Cllr Brambley-Crawshaw, Leader of the LDGI Group, gave an executive speech praising the dedication of Suffolk County Council officers and public sector workers who have pulled together to combat the pandemic. She also called for more co-operation between local politicians to combat the issues of the pandemic and climate change.
- THURST Café - I was pleased this was up and running and able to support financially, however due to latest COVID restrictions they will be having to close again.
- Cavendish Hall - I’ve been in discussion with the Cavendish Hall about how to finance the needed new kitchen. I will be able to put in a bit from the locality fund which would be a help.
- Masks on closed contract School Buses - as from 2nd November all students should wear masks unless a health reason not to.
- New Cycle Parks in Stowmarket: government money has funded a new cycle park in Stowmarket and one in Sudbury.
- NEW COVID RULES - at the time of writing we are not clear how this will affect SCC officers attending sites, issues etc. I will let you know asap.

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

- Mid Suffolk District Council did not meet in October, however in addition to our planned November meeting we have also convened a special session of the Council on Wednesday 11<sup>th</sup> November to consider progressing our draft Joint Local Plan to the examination stage.
- Across the District more broadly there have been a number of new announcements in recent weeks and I have included summary of these updates below:

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- Keeping up-to-date on Covid-19 across Suffolk - Mid Suffolk District Council is part of the Suffolk Resilience Forum – working with our neighbouring authorities, emergency services, public health and our NHS colleagues to protect our residents and communities. We are working together to share information and advice across our communications channels – including our regular councillor updates, our website and social media channels.
- To help you stay abreast of the situation across the county, regular Suffolk Coronawatch Bulletins are being 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 via the Suffolk County Council website.
- Home, But Not Alone Phonenumber goes live again - The Home, But Not Alone free phonenumber, which supports vulnerable people in our communities who may be struggling with the impact of Coronavirus, is up and running again in light of this week's lockdown announcement. The phonenumber helped thousands of people and families across Suffolk, who often didn't have a network of family or friends to call upon, to access emergency support such as food and medicine deliveries and befriending schemes during lockdown earlier this year. The telephone number is freephone 0800 876 6926 and will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
- The Home, But Not Alone phonenumber complements The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phonenumber (0800 068 3131) which helps those with debt, benefits employment or housing worries.
- Self-isolation support payments for low-income earners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk - Residents on low-incomes and unable to work because they have been asked to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace, can now claim a £500 payment to compensate for loss of earnings.
- Great Run Local - Great Run have taken the difficult decision to cancel the Great Run Local (GRL) scheme with immediate effect. An email has been sent to all GRL co-ordinators and participants advising of this update. Following the success of GRL events in Needham Market and Walsham-le-Willows we will continue to work with Suffolk County Council and other partners to try and find an alternative local solution, as part of ongoing our commitment to bright and healthy futures for our communities.
- Councils demonstrate they can meet future housing requirement - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils recently published their Five-Year Housing Land Supply position statement, evidencing that Government housing requirements can be met by the districts until 2025 and beyond.
- Visitors can scrap the paper with new digital parking - Motorists parking in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can now scrap their paper ticket and go digital – to help protect their health and the environment.
- Cross-party councillors in agreement on response to planning system overhaul - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councillors are united in their response to the Government's Planning for the Future consultation – insisting that proposals must not be at the detriment of local communities and should not lose focus on the challenges facing rural districts.
- CIL funding boost - Town and parish councils across Mid Suffolk recently received much-needed CIL funding collected between 1 April 2020 and 30 September 2020. A total of £312,507 was allocated to 29 town and parish councils in the district. Parish councils receive this money automatically and are eligible for up to 15% of collected funds from their area, subject to a financial cap, with the potential for this to increase to 25% if they have successfully adopted a Neighbourhood Plan.

### **Report from District Cllr. Cllr Wendy Turner to Full Council**

- Extraordinary Council meeting - An extraordinary Council meeting has been called for 11th November when both the Joint Local Plan and the revised CIL charging schedule will be discussed.
- Council response to planning review consultation - Following the decision at the last full Council meeting, a cross-party group from both Councils have been working with officers on the Joint response to the Government white paper on Planning reform. Whilst there are aspects of the proposals which can be supported, such as greater emphasis of pre-application working and greater community engagement, there are other suggestions which are not considered favourable. The 40-page response highlights the need to ensure that all development needs to

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be appropriate to its surroundings and that safeguards are in place to protect our countryside, market towns and villages

- CIL review - In response to the new Government regulations on CIL spending, a cross-party working group is reviewing both Council's CIL expenditure framework for 2021. Alongside that review the group has also made recommendations to Council about new CIL charges and the instalment schedule for developers. The current proposals suggest a fee structure which aims to promote development of brownfield sites over greenfield sites within the districts.
- Digital car parking meters - Babergh and Mid Suffolk car parks have become digital, with the introduction of MiPermit system. Virtual tickets are available online, via the MiPermit app, by phone or by text, so this should reduce paper waste. A cash payment option is still available. More information can be found at <https://secure.mipermit.com/bmsdc/application/home.aspx>
- 2020 Innovation Awards - The winners of the new Innovation Awards will be announced on 3rd November, at a virtual event. 28 businesses have been shortlisted, and the winners will be rewarded with both a cash prize and some bespoke professional advice, support or training.
- Self-isolation payments - Residents on low income and unable to work due to NHS Test and Trace notification, are able to apply for £500 payment. Details of the scheme and how to apply can be found on our website. <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/self-isolation-support-payments-for-low-income-earners-in-babergh-and-mid-suffolk/>
- Free school meals - Suffolk County Council are not providing Government-funded vouchers for free school meals over half term week, but they are still supporting families in need. SCC has committed £250,000 to Suffolk Foodbanks and a further £60,000 to Suffolk Community Foundation's emergency hardship fund. The Suffolk Support and Advice Line has been set up to help address these issues. It can help with debt advice, budgeting, mortgage, rent or credit card problems and employment queries. The number is 0800 068 3131 and is manned Monday to Friday 9am to 5pm.
- Locality Budget - There is funding available, please contact me if you know of any group that needs some help with a project. Two awards have been granted so far, £3000 to Thurst Café and £750 to TRINC. I still have £3600 available.
- Skylark plots - A positive response has been made by Rougham Estates as to providing skylark plots. SCC planning department has the details and are looking into whether this could provide a solution to the lack of Skylark provision in Thurston.
- Damaged Oak Tree - Still waiting for a response from SCC/MSDC as to whether the damaged oak tree on the Ixworth Road in Thurston is safe or will need to be felled.