

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

- COVID-19 - Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>
Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Full Council – Motion and Decisions - The Suffolk County Council met for a Full Council meeting on 21st October 2021. Our Group proposed a motion to support the Local Electricity Bill, to help proportion local energy supplier’s costs, making local electricity cheaper and more reliable. The motion was passed unanimously. Details of the motion can be found here: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-councillors>
- The Conservatives forwarded a motion to condemn Insulate Britain, which was passed with the following vote: 41 For, 9 Against, 7 Abstained.
- Cabinet Meeting – On 12th October, the Cabinet and Councillors met to discuss the following two matters: Recommendations highlighted in the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21, and to vote on submitting the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), in relation to the Council’s Bus Back Better Strategy.

Summary of the main decisions are below:

The Cabinet accepted the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21 and noted the report’s recommendations and the action that the Council was taking to address the recommendations.

- Bus Back Better: Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Approved - The Cabinet approved the new Bus Service Improvement Plan, as part of their new £50m Bus Back Better strategy – aimed at rejuvenating Suffolk’s bus service, in particular isolated areas of rural Suffolk. Our Group supports the essential commitment needed to help connect rural communities.
- Bus Back Better aims at making bus services cheaper, more reliable, and carbon efficient. All proposals of the BSIP that were passed by Cabinet can be viewed here: [https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)
- Suffolk Schools to Reintroduce Face Coverings - On Wednesday 20th October, the Directors of Public Health, and Children and Young People Services, released a statement notifying us that face coverings are to be reintroduced into schools from 1st November. This is due to the rising COVID cases in Suffolk, and therefore staff and students will have to wear face coverings in communal areas, outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons. Visitation will also be restricted to essential visits. A further review on its effectiveness will commence 15th November.
- Sizewell C: Government Announce Support & New Funding Strategy - On 15th October, Suffolk County Council announced their support for Sizewell C, and are taking up ‘important concerns’ to the Secretary of State. In addition, on 26th October, Business and Energy Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, announced a new government strategy for funding the nuclear power project in Sizewell. The project so far has been heavily contentious, suffering from delays and planning concerns, as well as overflowing costs.
Our Group has abhorrently rejected this strategy, and severely recommends that the Government reconsiders before it puts the burden of cost onto our local communities, and instead looks into investing in cleaner, cheaper, and quicker forms of renewable energy available to Suffolk.
- Review of HGV Routes - all parish councils will be consulted but any comments from the public should be included in your response. I have copied you on the proposal for an HGV weight restriction on the A1088 at Bridge Farm Bridge as it may be that HGV use Thurston roads as a short cut. If this happens let me know.
- Speeding Great Green - I will follow up the request for this to be investigated again and will fund a speed survey.
- Pokeridge Corner - has any action been taken here? If needed I have found several old emails on this.
- CIL Money for new parking and outdoor space at TC - This was agreed but I am concerned that there is no commitment for this to be available to the public.
- A14 JUNCTION. Following the response from highways I have asked them to look again and have sent photos of other incidents . I will again contact Highways England.

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

- Mid Suffolk District Council - Mid Suffolk held an extraordinary meeting on Monday 18th October to consider two motions that had been delayed from our regular meeting in September, owing to a lack of time on the night. Both motions were passed by the Council: the first requires the Council to consider reducing or replacing a number of streetlights where these interfere with biodiversity; the second commits the Council to writing to the relevant minister to oppose the introduction of compulsory voter ID.
- In addition, it has been announced that Suffolk is to receive extra resources to fight Covid-19, having been confirmed as an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) amid increasing pressure on our hospitals and high rates of infection. A request for additional support was submitted last week by Public Health Suffolk - on behalf of public sector partners - and is intended to secure in additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure. Suffolk now becomes an ERA from Monday (November 1st) for up to five weeks, and additional support will include:
 - Support for the vaccination efforts by extending opening hours and creating pop up vaccination clinic within our communities
 - Help to coordinate on the ground door knocking campaigns
 - Help to reduce transmission in schools with increased testing and additional temporary powers
 - Funding for Covid-19 awareness raising communications and advertising.

This does not, however, mean any additional restrictions on people’s movements or actions. It is not a lockdown or like the tiering system that was trialled in England in 2020. Instead, it will boost the county’s ability to raise awareness, tackle outbreaks and encourage people to get vaccinated.

- There have also been a number of initiatives launched in the previous weeks and so I have included below a summary of the major updates across the District:
- Delay to the Joint Local Plan - Public examination of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council’s Joint Local Plan – the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts - has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow the councils further time to review its evidence. It is expected that this will resume in the new year.
- £1.5m funding boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities - Town and Parish Councils across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received £1.5 million in neighbourhood CIL last month – paving the way for a range of vital community facilities and projects.
- First Local Energy Showcase hailed a success - With more attention than ever turning to sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils hosted business owners and community groups at their first Local Energy Showcase.
- Tree for Life scheme welcomes applications from new parents - Mid Suffolk’s popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2021 applications. The scheme, which benefits families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across our districts, is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1st January and 31st December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree.
- New iPad lending scheme to help residents get online - Suffolk Libraries and Mid Suffolk District Council are joining forces to help residents get online with a new iPad lending scheme – supporting those who need a little extra help to access services in an increasingly digital world.
- Stowmarket business help those experiencing domestic abuse - Mid Suffolk District Council urged businesses and organisations in Stowmarket to take part in a domestic abuse awareness event last month – empowering them to spot the signs of abuse and help address it.

Report from District Cllr. Cllr Wendy Turner to Full Council -

- Extraordinary Council meeting - An extraordinary council meeting was held on Monday the 18th of October to discuss two motions proposed by the Green and Liberal Democrat group carried over from the previous meeting. Firstly, a motion to reduce light pollution by putting policies in place to control new street lighting was passed with only one vote against. Secondly a motion to object to the

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Government's proposal to introduce voter photo ID requirements at polling stations, was also passed but only by a very narrow margin.

- Joint Local Plan - The Inspectors have paused the examination for the Joint Local Plan for 6 months. This is to allow officers to re consult and further clarify the spatial strategy and review part of the evidence base. There are some concerns about the housing allocations.
- Tree for life scheme - The tree for life scheme for new parents has been launched. Applications for 2021 are now open having been delayed because of Covid. Applications can be made on the council's website before 10th January 2022.
- CIL funding - The Council has made a bi-annual payment of CIL funds to the parish councils – amounting to over £1M across 47 different town and parish councils.
- Neighbourhood Plan Process - Is to be streamlined by allowing NPs to automatically proceed to referendum after examination rather than having to seek approval at cabinet. If the post referendum had a majority vote it will be formally adopted by the councils' chief executive which will help mitigate potential delays to plans.
- Elmswell Primary School expansion - A CIL bid for over £1.5M to expand Elmswell Primary School is to be determined by MSDC Cabinet on Monday 1st November. The rest of the costs (approx £700k) will come from S106 contributions from earlier developments. This bid is not supported by the parish council, nor the district and county councillors, who would all think that this would produce a very crowded school for 420 pupils.
- Locality Awards - There is still funding from the annual locality awards. Amounts of £250 or more are available to local community groups and organisations. Please encourage groups in the village to contact me for an application form or telephone for further information and help in applying. Half of my budget has been awarded to various organisations, including a Nature garden at Thurston community College, Speed cameras and posts in Norton and Stowlangtoft.
- Meadow Lane Thurston - I've been working with residents and enforcement to make sure Linden Homes carries out remedial work on Meadow lane as conditioned, some work has now begun.