

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

- For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/> Latest SCC COVID 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
- Concern over SCC budget position - At Cabinet on 13 June, our group raised concerns about the significant extra expenditure announced by the Conservative administration since the 2023-24 budget was set in February. Cabinet were reviewing the 2022-23 finances against the budget that was set, including an overspend of £27.7m and a significant £57.2m taken out of Council reserves – the council’s ‘safety net’ funds to be used when needed.
On 16 May 2023 the Cabinet announced that an extra unbudgeted £720k would be found to cover the £60k monthly shortfall for Suffolk Libraries for a year, and at the council AGM on 25 May the Leader of the Council, Cllr Matthew Hicks, announced a further unbudgeted additional £10m for road surfacing in the next 20 months. Given that neither of these items were budgeted for only a few months ago when the current budget was set, my group raised concerns in the meeting whether the administration’s budget setting procedures were sufficiently robust.
- North Falls Offshore Wind Farm - On 13 June, Cabinet reviewed the consultation response for the extension of the North Falls wind farm. The wind farm is situated just off the Essex coast so Suffolk County Council is a consultee rather than a decision maker.
- National Grid Reinforcement Works between Bramford and Twinstead - The Cabinet also reviewed and approved a response to the Planning Inspectorate on upgrading the power lines between the villages of Twinstead in Essex and Bramford in Mid Suffolk. There were concerns about the impact of the works to the local countryside, particularly the Dedham Vale Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty, where the National Grid have agreed to lay cables underground.
- Missing Child Reports in Suffolk - The recent reports in the press that nearly 3000 missing child reports were received by Suffolk Constabulary between April 2022 and March 2023 deeply shocked our group. The reports involved 719 children across the county with some going missing several times during the period. The majority of the children reported missing are in care settings such as children’s homes and foster care. We asked the administration at Suffolk County Council to do more to support children in care, who are among the most vulnerable in Suffolk.
- Review of DIY Refuse Charges - the government has announced a proposal to abolish council charges for DIY waste, but a timetable has still to be set, but likely to be later this year. Details of current position on the website.
- Ixworth Road - I have again asked if legal action has now being taken to get this done.
- Problems with road humps and lighting - following a complaint from residents I have asked if a review of these could be done, the lighting could be turned off earlier?
- Yellow Lines along Norton Road - following no objections this can now go ahead including Wren Close.
- Network Rail - Network rail officers attended the site without anyone in attendance from SCC, the Parish Council or myself so maybe we will get more information at the meeting on 28th June.

Appendix D - District Cllr’s Report to Full Council – Cllrs. David Bradbury and Austin Davies

- MSDC Administration Appointments - Mid Suffolk District Council web site has a full list of appointments including our Cabinet of six members. David Bradbury is a member of the Licencing Committee and is our Council representative of the Network Rail East West Rail Partnership. He is going to take a special interest in all matters relating to railways and integrated transport within our Ward. Austin Davies has accepted roles as Director of the MSDC holding company and CIFCO, a member of the planning committee and the joint Audit Committee.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 05.07.2023

- Gateway 14 – The Range has confirmed the creation of over 1,600 new jobs by early 2024. As a major distribution hub they envisage 3 shifts running 24/7. Early discussions indicate that they would run electric buses between Stowmarket station and Gateway 14. We are exploring options for extending the route to the surrounding villages. Planning application has been submitted for a second warehouse on this site.
- Planning - MSDC lost the appeal (APP/W3520/W/23/3316136 - DC/22/0194) on 9 self builds off Ixworth Road, Norton, however, this developer will have to install a crossing point on Ixworth Road before first occupation. DC/19/02090 Gladman have taken this case to a public appeal. The hearing is set for July 4 in Elmwell (no venue was available locally). Have called in applications DC/23/02430 Barrells Road and the related application off Norton Road DC/23/02429.
- Network Rail - Update held on the work carried out. Investigation of the old tunnel to be carried out with the feasibility study to be completed by 31st October 2023. Focus is now need on building a funding case to the Department of Transport.
- Thurston Library extension - Richard and Ellie shared the plans for the proposed extension with David and Austin. We fully support the CIL bid of £200k and are working with Suffolk Libraries to build a successful case.
- Thurston Community College meeting - During a meeting with the College principle it was exciting to learn that Suffolk County Council have now acquired the additional land that is needs for both additional parking and new playing field area and the expansion/new school build.
- Locality grants - David and Austin have received applications from community organisations in Norton and Thurston so far!

Further report from Cllr. Bradbury

- Citizens Advice – we have been speaking with CAB and they are hoping to start some consultation sessions in August using the meeting room in Thurston Library. I did advise that we have residents in the other parishes who might be in need of their advice but lacked transport to get to Thurston. I mentioned the Parish Council sponsored bus as one option that could possibly resolve that for them. We've not looked too deeply into it nor spoken to anyone at the Parish Councils yet (other than Vicky when I called in last week)
- East West Rail Partnership - I attended a meeting at the Portcullis House (Houses of Parliament) to represent Mid Suffolk District Council on the East West Rail Partnership. This group is lobbying to improve the railway lines in & out of East Anglia with key improvements in our area to the Haughley junction, in conjunction with improvements to Ely and Soham. We met with a number of MPs, including Jo Churchill and Lord Haselhurst. All the MPs and Lord Haselhurst were very supportive - there is cross party support for this project which aims to reduce the number of lorries on the A14 and to reduce congestion / improve service frequency for passenger trains (which is another reason to improve the foot crossing in Thurston).

Mid Suffolk District Council – Town and Parish Update – July 2023

Anti-social behaviour awareness -Our community safety team will be out in our market towns this month, sharing information and answering questions from residents, working alongside partners in tenancy management, environmental health and officers from Suffolk Police on the following dates:

- Monday 3 July: Hadleigh, Morrisons
- Tuesday 4 July: Eye, Broad Street
- Wednesday 5 July: Stowmarket Cedars Park Tesco
- Thursday 6 July: Sudbury market

Summer holiday activities and free family fun days - We will soon be promoting our summer holiday activity programme to encourage everyone to stay active and healthy during the school break. Our holiday, activities and food (HAF) programme, funded by the Department for Education, ensures children in need, for example those eligible for free school meals, continue to receive support through holidays - with places also available to book by others looking to entertain their youngsters locally for a small fee. [Find your local activities.](#)

Also during July we will be holding a series of free family fun days across the districts - offering everything from climbing walls to archery, face-painting to sports. The events will be 10am to 2pm on:

- Monday 24 July at Eye Community Centre
- Tuesday 25 July at Stowmarket Recreation Ground
- Thursday 27 July at Shotley Community Centre
- Friday 28 July at East House Park, Hadleigh
- and Monday 31 July at Belle Vue Park, Sudbury

Look out for further information on social media over coming weeks and please help us spread the word within your towns and parishes.

Works get underway to install almost 30 new electric vehicle charge points in council car parks - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are set to install 28 new electric vehicle chargers across their car park network this year, to help tackle climate change. [More information](#)

Districts welcome the Tour of Britain - The UK's biggest professional cycle race, the men's Tour of Britain, is heading to Suffolk on Thursday 7 September. The race will pass through a number of towns and villages in the Mid Suffolk district, including Debenham, Stowmarket and Needham Market. [For the full route details, visit the website.](#) Meanwhile we are promoting a competition to design the jersey to be presented to the winner of the Suffolk stage. [More information](#)

Joint Local Plan examination - Examination hearing for our Joint Local Plan took place this week. The virtual sessions can be viewed via the [Joint Local Plan YouTube channel](#). [Find out more about our Joint Local Plan.](#)

National Grid pylons consultation - National Grid has launched its latest public consultation on plans for a new high-voltage power line across East Anglia, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh. The Norwich to Tilbury project has previously been opposed by both councils amid significant concerns, particularly over the impact on the environment. The public consultation events in our area are:

- Tuesday 11 July, 11am-4pm at Blackbourne Community Centre, Blackbourne Road, Elmswell.
- Wednesday 19 July, 2pm-7pm - Copdock Village Hall, Old London Road, Copdock.

There are also consultation webinars on July 5 (1-2pm), July 25 (7-8pm), August 12, 17 (both 10-11am). [For more details visit the National Grid website.](#)

Gateway14: Latest plans submitted - Plans have been submitted for a new 164,500 sq ft manufacturing and warehouse unit at Gateway 14 – the new state-of-the-art business, innovation and logistics park taking shape in Stowmarket. [More information](#)

Mid Suffolk District Council and CARE Suffolk joint statement on solar farm application - Mid Suffolk District Council and CARE (Community Alliance for a Rural Environment) Suffolk issued a joint statement about the Bramford Green solar farm application and appeal. [More information](#)

New Mid Suffolk Chair announces support for disability charities in Thornham Magna - Two charities in Thornham Magna will be supported by Mid Suffolk District Council's new chairman Cllr Rowland Warboys. [More information](#)