

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

Impact of general election moratorium - the election moratorium started on 6 November, and consequently a number of decisions and meetings at Suffolk County Council have been delayed.

The Council is unable to launch consultations during the moratorium, so the long-awaited children’s centre consultation will need to wait until the new year. We still don’t have any information about when exactly this consultation will be ready.

Finally, the Council has made the decision to postpone any meetings of the Climate Emergency Policy Development Panel until the new year.

However I noticed that some councils did continue to hold cabinet and council meetings , so have asked the monitoring officer why Suffolk has been so strict.

Children and Young People - the Home-to-School Transport budget forecast has increased from Quarter 1 to show an overspend of £1.2m. This increase of £0.4m is due to costs associated with additional temporary staff due to the changes to free school transport and the potential implications nationally of a legal case currently ongoing between a complainant and North Yorkshire County Council regarding the ability to sell surplus seats on buses which are not compliant with Public Services Vehicle Accessibility Regulations.

Rights of Way Improvement Plan published - Suffolk County Council’s Rights of Way Improvement Plan (2020-30) was agreed by the Cabinet on 6 November. The delivery plan focuses on four key areas: managing green access infrastructure; improving green access infrastructure; promoting green access; and developing healthy and sustainable communities.

Measures proposed by the plan include creating a digital map of the county’s footpaths and bridleways and a new system to prioritise maintenance of highly-used routes. The plan also focuses on sustainable travel choices and the health benefits of walking and cycling.

Network Rail - at time of writing it seems some trains cannot stop at Elmswell so passengers are having to use Thurston either to park or use the provided bus.

Trading Standards - have put out an alert re; scam TV licensing and “dodgy” fish sellers.

Contractors work on Meadow Lane and other roads - I have asked highways to contact any contractor to make sure they maintain the roads.

Police and Commissioners Fund - available for PCs and community groups. Deadline 1st December 2019.

High Sheriffs Fund - for young people projects - 8-25. Deadline 1st January 2020.

Appendix D –

District Cllr. Harry Richardson's Report to Full Council

Mid Suffolk District Council has not held a formal meeting during the last month and nor has it made any significant announcements owing to the restrictions placed upon local authorities (and government more broadly) given the on-going General Election.

In lieu of any substantive District Council updated I can report that I have now awarded all of my remaining Locality Budget funding for the current financial year (which includes the prospective funding allocated to Thurston Library but that has not been officially confirmed). In addition, because of these restrictions the District Council will not process any of the Locality Budget payments during the election period, but these should be completed after 12th December.

With regards to local planning matters, I can also confirm that I have referred applications DC/19/05126 and DC/19/05114 to the Development Control Committees as per the request from Thurston Parish Council's planning committee. There is one committee meetings scheduled for December 11th, but it is unlikely that the referrals would be considered then given the relatively short notice, so they will likely be considered in the New Year.

Report from District Cllr. Sarah Mansel (standing in for Cllr Wendy Turner) to Full Council

General Election December 12 - due to the General Election being called for Thursday 12 December, all MSDC Council and Cabinet meetings will be cancelled, as will Overview and Scrutiny Committee meetings. Next meetings will be in January. Planning and regulatory committees will continue to be held as normal. In addition, all member briefings have also been cancelled during the run-up to the election. There will be an extension of time for the allocation of locality grants. Postal voting forms have now been sent out.

Suffolk Coast Ecology - The Suffolk Coast Recreational Disturbance and Habitat Strategy was adopted by Cabinet at the beginning of November. The strategy is a means by which new residential growth can be delivered, alongside the protection of Suffolk's coastal, estuarine and heathland European wildlife sites, which is a legal requirement for all councils.

Citizens Advice Bureau AGM - Mid Suffolk CAB recently held their AGM. During the last year they addressed nearly 10,000 issues and helped 3,400 clients. So far their client numbers are up 17% on last year. In 2018/19 the CAB helped clients in Mid Suffolk achieve over £1.4 million in financial gains through benefit claims, employment negotiations, consumer refunds and charitable support. The work done by the 45 volunteers has been officially valued at more than £380,000.

Budget and Council Tax - the parish precept forms have been sent out to all parishes across the district. The MSDC draft budget for both HRA and general fund, will now be discussed at the January cabinet meeting, before going to Full Council in February.

Joint Local Plan - officers are currently working through the submissions made to the Preferred Options (Regulation 18) Consultation. All submissions can be viewed on the MSDC website. The timescale for further steps in the process to adoption of a Joint Local Plan have not yet been confirmed.

Grants for home adaptations - if you know anyone who needs adaptations to their home due to disability or long-term health condition, MSDC offer grants of between £1,000 to £5,000. This scheme is open to all homeowners, private tenants and council property tenants. For more information see the website <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/housing/disabled-adaptations-grants/> or call 0300 123 4000.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 04.12.2019

Infrastructure funding - all developers pay a community infrastructure levy (CIL). Larger developments also have to draw up a legal agreement (S106) for funding affordable housing, highway improvements, etc. As an example for an average sized 4 bedroomed house the CIL amounts to about £35. 25% of this goes directly to the parish council now that the neighbourhood plan is adopted, and the remainder (apart from some admin charges) is retained by MSDC and infrastructure providers have to bid for funding. Details of all moneys collected from developers is now publicly available on a website:

<http://pfm.exacom.co.uk/midsuffolkbabergh/index.php>

It is good to see this information provided openly and transparently.