

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

- COVID-19 Update - Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Suffolk Local Outbreak Control Plan published - Suffolk County Council has published a Local Outbreak Control Plan which sets out how Suffolk would prevent and respond to a localised outbreak of COVID-19. A copy of the full plan and an executive summary can be viewed here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolks-response> Suffolk has received £2.79m from the Government to support the delivery of the plan. The plan focuses on:
 - Preventing and managing outbreaks in ‘complex settings and groups’ e.g. care homes, schools, health settings, workplaces, public spaces, BAME communities and those that are shielded;
 - Strategic and coordinated approach to COVID-19 testing in Suffolk, with a focus on care home testing, hospital testing, lab capacity and workforce for swabbing;
 - Suffolk COVID-19 Data Centre, which will continue to monitor the local situation;
 - Providing clear guidance on NHS Test and Trace and what to do in the event of a local outbreak.
- Concessionary travel rules reintroduced on public transport - Suffolk County Council has announced that concessionary travel rules, which had been relaxed during lockdown, will be reintroduced from July 6. This means that from Monday 6 July, concessionary bus passes in Suffolk will only be valid Monday to Fridays from 9:30am to 9pm, and all day on Saturdays, Sundays and Bank Holidays. The council has stated this is necessary to support social distancing on peak bus services, as more people return to work and school. All passengers are now required to wear a face covering on public transport.
- Planning Inspectorate accepts plans for Sizewell C and begins examination process - On 24 June, the Planning Inspectorate agreed that EDF Energy’s DCO application for Sizewell C could proceed to the examination stage. The formal pre-examination stage of the process (Section 56 Notification Stage) will begin on 8 July and run to 30 September. Anyone who wishes to be involved in the examination process will need to register on the Planning Inspectorate website to become an ‘Interested Party’ and provide a written summary of their views on the DCO application. More information about the application and how to register as an Interested Party is available here: <https://infrastructure.planninginspectorate.gov.uk/projects/eastern/the-sizewell-c-project/?ipcsection=overview> Both Suffolk County Council and East Suffolk Council have raised concerns about the adequacy of EDF’s consultations so far, particularly with regards to the level and quality of information that has been made available throughout the consultation exercises. On 9 July, my group will be proposing a motion to Suffolk County Council asking the Council to oppose the development of Sizewell C. If you are interested in watching the debate, the Council meeting will be available to watch on Suffolk County Council’s YouTube channel.
- Cabinet approves 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk - On 16 June the Cabinet approved a 5-year cycling plan for Suffolk, which identified 148 potential routes to be prioritised. This is as a result of a motion proposed by my group in July 2018, which called on the council to produce a strategic costed 5-year cycling plan. Funding has not yet been secured for these routes, but the cycling plan will provide a strong basis to bid for funding as and when it becomes available. The 148 routes identified by the plan are intended to be starting point, rather than a fixed programme of works. The Cabinet’s approval of the plan means that discussions can begin with district and borough councils on developing the five-year-plan further. These include several in Stowmarket and bury St Edmunds.
- No spare seats will be offered on Home to School Transport buses - Suffolk County Council normally allows families who are ineligible for free school transport to purchase a spare seat on the council’s school buses. However, due to social distancing requirements, school buses will only be able to transport a smaller group of children. The council have therefore stated that they are not in a position to be able to offer spare seats for September. All affected families will be emailed directly to inform them of this

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change. If changes are made to social distancing rules, the council will review the guidance to see if they can safely offer spare seats. Any parents who are concerned by this change can call 0345 606 6173, and information will also be available on www.suffolkonboard.com.

- Mill Road - I have asked highways to put signs up to deter the area as a rat run during the diversion.
- Ixworth Road - following another meeting alternative plans have been suggested for the footway and cycle route to avoid the loss of trees, although it is unlikely that the one at the entrance to the site will be saved.
- Waste/Recycling Sites - I have asked whether there are plans to allow larger vehicles and vans to use the sites, so far no.
- Libraries and Mobile Libraries - these will start up again on 6th July. I have sent details to clerks.
- CIL for Railway Station Crossing Feasibility Study - hopefully this will be given approval by the district council
- Sunflower Lanyards for those with Disabilities - this has been agreed with Greater ANGLIA so that those with disabilities can be given assistance and will be available at manned stations.
- Virtual Women's Cycle Tour - this will take place from 20th July to 16th August to raise funds for the East Air Ambulance

Appendix D –

District Cllr. Harry Richardson's Report to Full Council

- We're rooting for new parents during COVID-19 and beyond - A Tree for Life scheme in Babergh and Mid Suffolk which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2020 applications allowing families to apply from home during the coronavirus outbreak. [For details of how apply, please refer to our website](#)
- New grant scheme opens for small businesses - A new Discretionary Grant is now open for businesses based in shared offices or other flexible workspaces, market traders, bed and breakfasts and small charity properties. [For details of how apply, please refer to our website](#)
- Communities benefit from Coronavirus funding boost totalling over £100,000 - Communities have received more than £100,000 in vital funding from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils – helping them to respond to Covid-19 and paving the way for a stronger society. [For details of how apply, please refer to our website](#)
- Children to explore the value of food through new competition by #FoodSavvy - Pioneering food saving campaign #FoodSavvy launched a month-long Delicious Drawings competition, on Wednesday 20 May, in collaboration with the East of England Co-op.
- Stick With It Suffolk – continue slowing the spread of coronavirus - Suffolk people are being asked to continue their great efforts, which are successfully reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- Small businesses to benefit from new innovation and growth fund - A new £300,000 funding programme for small businesses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed - with funds to be allocated over the next three years. This will provide a much-needed boost to businesses after the coronavirus crisis to help sustain and create jobs, provide opportunities to grow and innovate as well as react to the changing business landscape.

- Coronavirus cons - Unfortunately, opportunistic traders and scammers are taking advantage of the vulnerability of those panicked by COVID-19. If you'd like to help make Suffolk a safe place to live and work, register to be a Trading Standards Consumer Champion and receive a weekly email alert that provides information on scams as well as any doorstep rogues calling at properties in the local area so you can alert your neighbours or residents.

Report from District Cllr. Cllr Wendy Turner to Full Council

- Covid-19 - Staff are continuing to work from home, making use of Microsoft Teams to hold virtual meetings with colleagues, councillors and residents. Non-urgent site inspections are not taking place. Some officers are beginning to return to their normal jobs having been seconded to different duties arising from the pandemic. The Home but not Alone emergency line continues: 0800 876 6926.
- Meetings - All District Council and Committee meetings are now being held as virtual meetings using the Microsoft Teams platform. They can be viewed on YouTube. The full Council meeting on 23 July will be the Annual Council Meeting where the Chair of the Council will be elected for the year and appointments to committees and outside bodies will be confirmed.
- Joint Local Plan - We still don't know when the Joint Local Plan will be available and ready to be considered at a meeting of the full Council. We will soon be provided with a timetable for the remaining steps that need to be followed. The next version of the Plan, when we see it, may well be very different from the consultation draft of July 2019. If, and when, Council approves the Plan, it will be subject to further consultation and an Inspector's Examination before it can be formally adopted as planning policy.
- Environment and Climate Change Task Force - Proposals from the Cross-Party Task Force of Mid Suffolk and Babergh Councillors are due to be considered by Cabinet on 6 July. They contain a number of environmental measures which could form the councils' first Carbon Reduction Management Plan, setting out how they aim to fulfil their ambitions of becoming carbon neutral within the next ten years. The proposed actions are the first steps in achieving the long term objective to reduce the councils' current emissions of approximately 5,452 tonnes (Mt) of carbon dioxide equivalent (CO2e) per year, looking into how best to invest in order to reduce this to nett zero.
- Gateway 14 - MSDC and the Greater South East Energy Hub (GSEEH) will be jointly funding a study into low carbon opportunities for Gateway 14, the commercial development site bought by MSDC in 2018. Green Party councillors have been pressing for the site to developed sustainably making use of green energy technology and we welcome this study to look at how low and zero carbon initiatives can be integrated into new developments. It is hoped that the findings of the study can be to be used to share learning and best practice across the region.
- Cycling Strategy - MSDC is commencing work on rewriting the Cycling Strategy which is out of date. I have asked for better provision for cyclists between neighbouring villages to improve links to schools, local retail outlets etc as well as for leisure. There isn't enough money in this round of grants for a cycle path between Beyton and Thurston, which was supported by Beyton PC. Pre approved cycle routes will get the first round of money.
- MSDC out of county investments- Three years ago, MSDC and Babergh set up an investment company (CIFCO) and have so far borrowed around £60 million which they have loaned to CIFCO to buy commercial properties, almost all of which are outside Suffolk. The scheme was set up to make profits to improve services for residents of the districts. A recent revaluation of the portfolio shows a loss in the last 12 months of around £3 million; with fees of some £500,000. In recent months only 50% or so of the rental due to CIFCO has been paid. A recent scrutiny of the CIFCO Business Plan for 2020/2021 raised many concerns which need to be considered before full Council is asked to approve the Business Plan at the meeting on 23 July.

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- Business grants - Another round of business grants is due to be launched on 3 July; Early Years Settings will be eligible, amongst others not covered by previous grant schemes.
- Locality Awards - A reminder that Locality Awards have been launched for 2020/21. If you know of a community group in need of some funding, please put them in touch with me.
- Disabled Facilities Grant - In the recent Performance Reporting we raised concerns, again, that the grant available is not being spent. If you know anyone who needs any kind of adaptation to their home, from a handrail to a wet room, please ask them to get in touch. The application process is very straightforward.
- Car Charging - Department for Transport figures up to April 2020 showed there were 164 publicly available charging points for electric vehicles in the county – the lowest of any county in the EAST of England. Ipswich had the most 48, followed by 47 in East Suffolk and 44 in West Suffolk. Babergh has 16 and Mid Suffolk only 9. The Greens are pressing for more as data shows that 88% of councils are doing better than Mid Suffolk despite having a manufacturer of chargers in Stowmarket.
- Reopening of public toilets - and play areas All the MSDC public toilets have been tested for legionella and we are awaiting the results before making any decision about opening the facilities. The Public Realm team are working towards re-opening play areas in line with Government guidelines from 4th July. Within all public facilities, social distancing and hand washing are strongly encouraged to reduce the threat of COVID-19 spreading.
- Housing - From the 4th of July non-essential repairs will begin. Internal and non-essential repairs remain paused for the foreseeable future to continue to protect the health and safety of residents.
- 4th of July - Village Halls and community buildings are able to open on the 4th of July.
- Thurston Oaks - A meeting took place on the 17th June between the major stakeholders in the Persimmon show homes car park. A full report by Stuart McAdam has been sent to the PC. The general feeling at the meeting was positive as all the stakeholders wanted to save the trees. It now seems likely that the proposed cycle/pathway will be temporarily situated while new plans are drawn up. This is to ensure Persimmon can fulfil part of their agreement to provide a cycle/footpath before new homeowners are allowed in their houses. The tree next to the entrance to the College Park is the most under threat. The Persimmon representative suggested that a 'build out' could be placed in the road in order to reduce the speed of traffic which in turn eliminates the need for 90 meter visibility splays, as Highways are refusing to reduce the speed limit or look at other traffic calming measures due to costs. I have written to both Persimmon and Highways (awaiting a response) asking them to have another look at the 'build out' option as if bats are found to be roosting in the trees a special licence will be required in order to fell the tree, and extra mitigation measures will be needed to replace the loss. If a compromise can be found to save the tree, slow the traffic and new homeowners can get into their homes on time. Next meeting to be arranged for a date in July.