

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

- COVID Cabinet agrees to £65m loan to cover costs of Lowestoft Third Crossing - The Cabinet has given final approval for the Lowestoft Lake Lothing Third Crossing and revealed that the name of the new bridge will be “Gull Wing Lowestoft”. It is expected that construction work will begin in Spring 2021. However, the cost of the bridge is now much higher than originally estimated. The report prepared for Cabinet estimated that the total cost of delivering the bridge is £126.75m, with an additional £19m contingency for any unforeseen risks. The original estimate was £91.73m. To fund the building of the bridge, Suffolk County Council will spend £6.9m of its own money, receive £73.39m of funding from the Department of Transport and borrow up to £64.96m.
- Update on school transport arrangements for September - Suffolk County Council has confirmed that it will initially not be offering spare seats on school transport. This is due to social distancing requirements, which have reduced the capacity on school buses. However, parents may be able to apply for a spare seat from October half term. The council has also confirmed the arrangements for masks and social distancing on school transport. The rules vary depending on the type of transport used:
  - Dedicated closed routes (vehicle only carries school children) – social distancing will not apply; face coverings are recommended for children aged 11+
  - Shared routes (most passengers are pupils, but may be some members of the public) – pupils should observe social distancing guidelines with members of the public but they can sit next to members of their family or school, face coverings are mandatory unless a child is exempt from wearing one.
  - Public transport – social distancing will apply; face coverings are mandatory unless a child is exempt from wearing one.
- Children’s Centre: following the cabinet meeting last week, I am hopeful to call this in as there was numerous data facts not included, including the number of uses in Thurston library and community centre.
- Meadow Lane: following emails to Joy Stodart at SCC and various communications it seems this will not be used as much for construction traffic.
- Flooding: I have issued emails to the cabinet members for roads and flooding about the problems at Norton Road and Barton Road. Querying why gullies have not been cleared.
- Barrells Road - pleased to see appeal refused on application. However, there are ongoing concerns with resident on Stoney lane. I have arranged for his communications be dealt with directly by Jane Swift at SCC

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

In lieu of a full Council meeting in August I have provided below a summary of the key announcements made within the District over the last few weeks:

- Discretionary Business Grants - The deadline for applications for the Discretionary Grant has been extended to Monday 24th August in line with the recent Government announcement that all Covid-19 business grants applications must be received by Friday 28 August when they will close. There is still over approximately £1m of grant funding unallocated and we are urging eligible businesses to apply as soon as possible. The criteria for the second phase of the Discretionary Grant has been expanded and is now open to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses excluded from previous grants, Early Years providers, Ofsted registered childminders, charitable properties in receipt of rate relief as well as small and mobile businesses who have three or more employees and those in shared workspaces. If you are aware of any eligible businesses who have not applied, please do encourage them to find out more and apply.
- Mid Suffolk leisure centres' reopening date announced - Local leisure centres in Mid Suffolk have reopened, after being given the ‘green light’ by Prime Minister, Boris Johnson.
- Businesses to get help with licence to serve - Businesses across Suffolk are being given help as new licensing laws are due to be debated by Government to make it easier for cafés, pubs and restaurants to open.
- Modification of planning conditions relating to construction working hours - There have been urgent changes to planning restrictions on construction working hours to support safe construction working, in line with the Government’s latest social distancing guidance on construction and other outdoor work. For many construction sites, implementation of this guidance will require changes to working practices, including staggered starts and

## Appendix C and D – Minutes of 02.09.20

finishes, requiring different hours of operation to those which are currently permitted for the site through planning conditions.

- New laws to extend homes upwards and revitalise town centres - The Government has announced new laws, aimed at delivering much-needed new homes and revitalising town centres across England, which will come into effect by September. The new rules will mean full planning applications will not be required to demolish and rebuild unused buildings as homes, allowing commercial and retail properties to quickly be repurposed to help revive high streets. Homeowners will also be able to add up to two additional storeys to their home to create new homes, or more living space for growing families, through a fast track approval process – with a requirement to carefully consider the impact on neighbours and the appearance of the extension.
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk receive Government funding to install solar carports - The growth of green initiatives in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been boosted with the confirmation of an £800,000 grant from the “Getting Building Fund” for the introduction of micro-generation and electricity storage solar carports in Sudbury and Stowmarket. The funding will provide 50% of the budget for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council to install multifunctional solar carports which will generate and store electricity and provide a point for electric vehicle charging. The locations currently being assessed are surface carparks at Station Road, Sudbury and Gainsborough Road, Stowmarket with a flexible third option also under consideration.
- Wheels in motion for Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s healthy future - Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved proposals to create a joint Sustainable Travel Action Plan to further encourage sustainable transport, following cross-party support.
- Councils encourage communities to get active this summer - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are working with partners and communities to help keep families fit, safe and active during the school summer holidays.
- Council committee refuses detailed plans for homes in Hoxne - Mid Suffolk District Council recently refused detailed plans for four homes to be built near a memorial commemorating King Edmund, citing that proposals were not in keeping with the local area.
- Councils welcome census change for armed forces - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed the inclusion of military service information in next year’s census – further supporting their commitment to meeting the needs of the armed forces community.
- Annual canvass 2020 - Don’t lose your voice - residents are urged to look out for their annual canvass letters from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils.
- Vision for Needham Market starts to take shape - Mid Suffolk District Council’s multi-million-pound investment in Needham Market got underway last month – with new homes, community facilities and a boost for the local economy set to help the town’s post-COVID recovery.
- Councils’ blueprint for the future gets green light - Cabinets at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have given the go-ahead for a raft of environmental measures to help the councils achieve their ambition of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

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

- Thurst Café - Having been alerted to the imminent closure of the Thurst Café (New Green Trust) due to loss of revenue as a consequence of Covid, I was happy to step in and offer financial support by using funds from my locality budget. I asked Cllr Harry Richardson if he wanted to support the café, he was happy to match my funding of £3000. This will give the café at least a year to plan for a sustainable future.
- Thurston Oakes - Final stages of the cycle/foot path plans are underway with MSDC planners working hard to find the best solution to have a safe cycle/pathway that promotes sustainable travel whilst limiting further destruction of the remaining trees. It seems highly likely that the remaining big oaks T49, T42, T32 will not be felled. There are issues with some of the pollarded trees which may have to be replaced with new healthier trees to enable the footpath to be routed safely.

## Appendix C and D – Minutes of 02.09.20

- Affordable Homes - Plans have been approved to transform the former Stowmarket middle school into 'affordable homes' for Stowmarket.
- The properties offer a mix of affordable housing: to be offered either as shared ownership, or as social or affordable housing, where rent is calculated below the private market rate to help households on low to moderate incomes. They are amongst more than 200 homes in Mid Suffolk's social housing pipeline over the next two years – part of a multi-million-pound investment by the council in social housing across the district.
- MSDC to install solar carport - Babergh and Mid Suffolk are to share a £800,000 grant from the "Getting Building Fund" for the introduction of micro-generation and electricity storage solar carports in Sudbury and Stowmarket. The funding will provide 50% of the budget for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council to install multifunctional solar carports that will generate and store electricity and provide a point for electric vehicle charging. The locations currently being assessed are surface carparks at Station Road, Sudbury and Gainsborough Road, Stowmarket. A detailed feasibility study is expected to be complete by November 2020 and the two initial projects completed by March 2020.
- Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre - A new 2.2million upgrade and extension to Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket including a new gym, poolside features and changing rooms, is now underway forming a key part of the Council's plan to invest in and upgrade their leisure provision in the district. The works, carried out by Callix Leisure Ltd and expected to be completed by Winter 2020. For more information visit: <https://www.everyoneactive.com/reopeningmeasures/>
- New school Woolpit - Detailed plans for 300 new homes at Woolpit received the go-ahead last week – securing "affordable homes" for low income house-hunters, highways improvements and a new primary school for the village. Suffolk County Council will have additional land for use as the site of a new 420-place primary school, together with a 90-place pre-school centre. These new provisions will be partly funded by the developer, with s106 conditions requiring a contribution of over £1million on completion of the new homes.
- Innovation Awards 2020 - Forward thinking businesses, large and small, are being invited to enter the inaugural Innovation Awards 2020, being run by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. 2020 has been a challenging year for businesses, many of whom have had to adapt and change their way of working to overcome the restrictions caused by COVID-19. The Innovation Awards will celebrate and recognise businesses who have put innovation at the heart of the of what they do, creating new initiatives, supporting customers, and leading best practice across the districts. The awards are for businesses, based in Babergh and Mid Suffolk, who want to showcase how they are using innovative practices, cutting edge technology, sustainable solutions or delivering outstanding customer service. Entering the awards is free and there are 11 categories in a range of sectors including food, retail, and healthcare. The awards are open to organisations of any size and will recognise businesses, teams, and individuals. There is a category for SMEs and an opportunity to find the innovators of the future with an award for those aged 16-25.
- PlanningDue to Covid-19 - Mid Suffolk District Council's Development Control Committees cannot meet in person and are now regularly meeting virtually. However, the nature of virtual meetings means that it is not possible for the committees to consider many applications at each meeting. To allow Mid Suffolk District Council to continue to comply with statutory determination deadlines, the delegation given to the Chief Planning Officer in April 2020 has been extended until 30 September 2020, with this ceasing earlier if face to face meetings can resume before this date.
- Littering resources for community groups and parishes - As included previously, the UK has seen an increasing trend of litter being left behind in parks and open spaces following the continued easing of lockdown. We continue to use our social media channels to encourage our communities and visitors to put their litter in the bin or if full to take it home with them. It would be great if you also could share and retweet these posts on your own channels.
- Locality Budget - There are funds available for groups or organisations that might need help. Please contact me if you want to apply.