

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/>
 - Changes to Home but Not Alone phonenumber - From 5pm on 31 July, the Home But Not Alone phonenumber will no longer provide:
 - Free emergency food deliveries
 - Medicine deliveries
 - Shielded residents in Suffolk have been written to by Government and are aware of these changes. However, these support services are designed to be reintroduced and stood up once again if there is a significant local outbreak.
 - For the short-term, the team at Home But Not Alone will still be able to offer help/advice and signpost to neighbourhood or countywide support. As a reminder, the number is 0800 876 6926.
- Sudden closure of Age UK Suffolk - Age UK Suffolk ceased operations from Friday 24 July. This is a huge loss for our county, and I know that many residents will be concerned about the loss of vital support for themselves or elderly friends/relatives. Age UK stated that it had faced a number of financial challenges in recent years, and the impact of the pandemic on fundraising was the final straw. Suffolk County Council has published details of alternative sources of support: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/age-uk-suffolk/>
- Delay for children’s centre cuts after error spotted in report - The Cabinet was due to approve changes to children’s centres on 14 July. However, an error was spotted in the report at the last minute, which resulted in the Chief Executive pulling the report from the meeting. It will now be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 25 August. The error related to the numbers at some of the children’s centres including Acorn that use the library. There are currently 38 children’s centres in Suffolk. Under the proposed changes, this would be reduced to only 17 full-time and 11 part-time family hubs. Family hubs provide services for 0-19-year olds, whereas children’s centres currently provide services for 0-5 year olds. 8 centres would be repurposed for nurseries or SEND facilities, and another two centres will close completely.
- Climate emergency recommendations published - On 14 July, the Cabinet approved the recommendations of a cross-party policy development panel outlining how the council should respond to the climate emergency and reduce emissions. This follows a motion from my group in March 2019, which declared a climate emergency and committed the council to be carbon neutral by 2030.
 - Key recommendations include:
 - All future decisions must take into account carbon emissions
 - Annual publication of a carbon budget alongside the financial budget
 - Publish a cross-council action plan by the end of 2020 for net zero emissions across Suffolk
 - Changing to a 100% renewable energy tariff
 - Replacing all pool cars and service vehicles with fully electric vehicles by 2025
 - Develop an investment programme for renewable energy generation on the county farms estate
 - For all existing council buildings (including maintained schools), switch away from oil, LPG and natural gas use by 2030 and invest in onsite renewable energy generation
 - Provide advice for academies/free schools to develop their own net zero emissions plans
- Conservatives and Labour vote against anti-Sizewell motion - At the Council meeting on 9 July, my group proposed a motion calling on the council to oppose the development of Sizewell C and set up a cross-party group to consider whether the council should maintain its current ‘in-principle’ support for nuclear power. However, the motion was not passed after both the Labour and Conservative groups voted against it. I am very concerned about the environmental impact of Sizewell C on the Suffolk

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Coast and Heaths AONB, and the negative economic implications for the tourism and hospitality industries that will accompany this. The development of Sizewell C is due to be discussed at the Cabinet meeting on 22 September.

- Thurston Early Years Provision - There were several expressions of interests , but the final decision has been to agree that Thurston Pre-School will take this on and will now be part of the Thurston school site project , the building to be owned by SCC.
- Ixworth Road - at last there appears to be some solutions that can satisfy all and retain the trees.
- Mill Lane / Ixworth Road - having been notified of the proposed road closure I have contacted SCC, this then changed to use of traffic signals. SCC have instructed the developer to stop employees using Mill Lane
- Sandpit Lane / Cloverfields - following a message from a resident I arranged for an SCC highways officer to look into what could be done to stop vehicles being parked at the junction there. As rightly said by your Parish Council (Clerk) it should be reported to the police, but to stop any future problems to maybe have yellow lines or at least some white H MARKINGS. Matt Fox is away at the moment so will get back to him.

Appendix D –

District Cllr. Harry Richardson’s Report to Full Council

- FULL COUNCIL
- Sustainable Travel - Full Councils at both Mid Suffolk District Council approved proposals which will see the creation of a Sustainable Travel Action Plan, aiming to increase sustainable travel over coming years. The hope is to build on the significant number of people that have either returned to or taken up cycling during COVID-19, by encouraging a permanent shift towards sustainable transport such as cycling, walking or public transport throughout the districts. Reducing pollution and carbon emissions are also reasons for the shift, with the councils wanting to encourage residents to play their part in making Suffolk the greenest county and in supporting the county-wide ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030, all while enjoying the benefits for health and wellbeing. The final proposal, which was adopted by the administrations, followed motions put forward at both Full Council meetings by Green Party councillors Leigh Jamieson and Daniel Pratt which were amended following cross-party collaboration.
- CIFCO Business Plan 2020/21 - Mid Suffolk District Council approved CIFCO’s business plan at its Full Council on 23rd July, following Babergh District Council’s green light on 21st July. Last year it generated £1.633m of net income for the councils – equivalent to 10% of the councils’ annual staff costs or a 13.5% increase in council tax – and continues to generate revenue at a time when the coronavirus outbreak has significantly affected other ‘traditional’ income streams, such as council tax and business rates. Despite fears that the pandemic would leave CIFCO exposed, the company has succeeded in making all repayments to date in full, citing rigorous risk management and a diverse portfolio for helping them to collect a higher proportion of rent from their tenants than the current industry average. The company’s investment strategy for the forthcoming year focuses on industrial and office space as the main targets for investment. The company’s accounts for 2019/20 show a paper loss of £3.5m, made up of expected acquisition costs (including stamp duty and fees) and a revaluation of the portfolio in March – reflecting the uncertainty of the market during the coronavirus outbreak.
- Joint Local Plan - Work on the next version of the Joint Local Plan is currently underway, including updating evidence and appraisals to ensure the final Joint Local Plan promotes sustainable development, reflects public feedback, and considers the potential impact of Covid-19, as well as social, environmental and economic aspects. Following agreement of the Local Development Scheme

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timetable by both councils, the revised Joint Local Plan is expected to be published in Autumn 2020 – and will carry increased weight in the planning decision making process once agreed by Councillors at Full Council in November 2020. The final Joint Local Plan will be formally adopted by the councils after examination by a Planning Inspector. Political parties across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk acknowledged the challenging nature of preparing a Joint Local Plan within constraints set by Government, with changes to National Planning Policy Framework and last year's snap General Election contributing to a delay in progressing the plan. Additional officer resource will be made available to safeguard against future delay – in recognition that further changes to national planning policies may arise as a result of the Government's response to Covid-19.

- **MIDSUFFOLK**

Across the District more broadly there have been a number of new announcements in recent weeks and I have included summary of these updates below:

- **Discretionary Business Grants** - The first round of applications for the Discretionary Grant received 143 eligible applications. There are still applications being processed so any businesses who received a claim reference will be contacted to confirm whether or not their application has been successful. The second phase of the Discretionary Grant, aims to reach more businesses who have been unable to access any financial support including retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with a rateable value between £51k and £71k, Early Years providers and small businesses who have three or more employees.
- **Mid Suffolk District Council to study green development opportunities** - Mid Suffolk District Council and the Greater South East Energy Hub (GSEEH) have announced up to £40,000 match funding for a study into low carbon opportunities for Gateway 14.
- **Celebrations for Armed Forces Week to soldier on** - During Armed Forces Week, residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk were asked to share a salute in appreciation of our armed forces community.
- **Re-opening of village halls and community buildings** - The Government has announced that village halls and community buildings are able to open from Saturday 4 July, as part of the easing of lockdown restrictions. The guidance documents, issued by Government on 30 June, provide information on the safe re-opening of village halls and community buildings - including making sure the hall is kept as clean as possible and that social distancing is still adhered to.
- **Updated position on the collection of CIL** - Mid Suffolk District Council is now returning to normal arrangements for the collection of CIL, following the deferred payment scheme offered to housebuilders in the district between April and June 2020.

Report from District Cllr. Cllr Wendy Turner to Full Council

- **Full MSDC Council meeting** – 23rd July was the first full virtual meeting since February 2020.
- **Environment** - The Environment and Climate Change Task Force put forward their proposals to the cabinet and resolved to approve in principle the Cabinet's Carbon Reduction Management Plan and that the Cabinet Member for Environment and the Cabinet Member for Finance be given delegated authority to consider the business case for each proposal and approve the funding up to a total of £5000,00 from the general Fund.
- **Green Group and Liberal Democrat Group** - The council approved the political balance and composition of committees due to the Green Group and the Liberal Democrat Group having joined forces to become 'The Green and Liberal Democrat Group at Mid Suffolk District Council' in order to

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hold the current administration to account (for more detail please see press release at the bottom of the report)

- Sustainable Travel Action Plan - MSD Councillors approved a joint 'Sustainable Travel Action Plan' along with Babergh Council following cross party support is an attempt to continue the shift towards more cycling which has increased since the Coronavirus lockdown (for more detail there is a press release at the end of this report)
- CIFCO - A motion put forward by Green Councillor Eburne to halt all future investment in the Councils commercial property investment arm CIFCO, was voted down by the Conservative Chair's casting vote. The motion proposed to halt all future investments in CIFCO and to use any of the agreed remaining borrowing of .approx £13 million and re invest it in local market housing within the district.
- MSDC out of county investments - The Council debated CIFCO's business and trading and performance report. Councillors questioned the directors on the current situation in regards to the risks in investing in out of town offices and car parks, given the predicted future downturn in the economy. The company's accounts for 2019/20 showed a paper loss of £3.5 million pounds. Last year it generated £1.633 million of net income for the councils – equivalent to 10 percent of the councils' annual staff costs or a 13.5 percent increase in council tax. Last week a health centre in Nottingham was purchased bringing the properties in the CIFCO portfolio up to 15. The full debate can be seen at...
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Pk2L2W3nwM4>
- Joint Local Plan - A new timetable was agreed detailing the next steps for the Joint Local Plan (JLP) will likely be published in the autumn, followed by a six week consultation period. The plan is not likely to be adopted before late 2021 or early 2022 leaving the Councils vulnerable to speculative development: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/news/councils-advance-vision-for-great-communities/>
- Get kids active - summer initiatives - The councils have prepared a web resource to include downloadable maps, for socially – distant riverside rambles, woodland walks or countryside cycles.
- Explore Outdoor day – Adventure days in conjunction with Abbeycroft Leisure. The council is funding 200 places for disadvantaged children please see :- www.babergh.gov.uk/communities/sports-leisure-and-culture/
- *Press Release:*
- *Sustainable Travel Action Plan*
Last week, councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils approved proposals to create a joint Sustainable Travel Action Plan to further encourage sustainable transport, following cross-party support.
Full Councils at both Mid Suffolk District Council (Thursday 23 July) and Babergh District Council (Tuesday 21 July) approved proposals which will see the creation of a Sustainable Travel Action Plan, aiming to increase sustainable travel over coming years. The hope is to build on the significant number of people that have either returned to or taken up cycling during COVID-19, by encouraging a permanent shift towards sustainable transport such as cycling, walking or public transport throughout the districts. Reducing pollution and carbon emissions are also reasons for the shift, with the councils wanting to encourage residents to play their part in making Suffolk the greenest county and in supporting the county-wide ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030, all while enjoying the benefits for health and wellbeing. The final proposal which was adopted by the administrations, followed motions put forward at both Full Council meetings by Green Party councillors Leigh Jamieson and Daniel Pratt which were amended following cross-party collaboration.
Cllr Jessica Fleming, cabinet member for environment at Mid Suffolk District Council, said: "This is a great example of councillors working together, across the political divide, to ensure we have long-term

sustainable transport plans for our communities. As a council, we understand our role in encouraging and supporting our residents to lead active, healthy lives and in enabling them to play their part in the county-wide ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030 – as shown in the unanimous cross-party support for the proposal. While we work towards creating the plan to ensure Mid Suffolk remains a place we're proud to call home for years to come, I would urge anyone who can to give cycling a go – whether you're popping to the hairdressers or supporting local businesses in our towns and villages, it all makes a difference."

Dr Daniel Pratt, who proposed the motion in Mid Suffolk, said: "It's great to see councillors, regardless of political party, working together towards a common goal. Hopefully, the plan will see a permanent shift in the numbers of people choosing to cycle and walk as opposed to using a car in Mid Suffolk, ensuring our communities can play their part in making Suffolk the greenest county."

Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi, cabinet member for environment at Babergh District Council, said: "This is wonderful news, and shows our commitment to helping make sure sustainable transport such as cycling, walking or public transport can be a more natural choice for our residents. We're keen to see uptake of cycling and walking increase, with our residents and local businesses alike all getting involved, to support Suffolk's county-wide ambition to become carbon neutral by 2030. By making sure we have prioritised and costed routes we can ensure appropriate funding is available for initiatives, such as through CIL, showing how housing development in our district can support our residents to lead bright and healthy futures. I'd encourage everyone to help reduce pollution and road traffic noise in our district, by hopping on a bike next time you're heading out into our towns and villages – together we can make Babergh better for miles to come."

Cllr Leigh Jamieson, who proposed the motion in Babergh, said: "I'm pleased to see my motion forming part of a long-term plan for sustainable travel in Babergh. Hopefully, this will encourage more people to choose cycling and walking as their primary mode of transport wherever possible and allow us to create more accessible routes to help our residents get active as part of their routine."

Working with Suffolk County Council, the councils will be able to ensure local knowledge is at the heart of selecting and costing routes for the plan that meet the needs of both urban and rural areas of Babergh and Mid Suffolk. This work will build on the councils' support for other leisure initiatives in the districts, such as Active Schools and Explore Outdoors, which aim to increase physical activity in young children in line with their Joint Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy. While also adding to the county's 148 priority routes for cycling improvements, including several within Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The plan will also ensure sustainable transport will continue to be considered as part of future developments in the district, ensuring funds collected from housing developers through CIL are available for proposed initiatives. Set to be reviewed every three years, the plan will also explore the potential for future e-scooter and e-bike initiatives, ensuring it links in with the New Anglia LEP's Economic Strategy. Anyone wishing to improve their cycling skills can join one of Suffolk County Council's free road-safe sessions for adults and families with more information at www.suffolkroadsafe.com/family-cycling-sessions or to find out more about how to get cycling safely visit www.mostactivecounty.com.

- *Mid Suffolk Green and Liberal Democrat District Councillors form new group*
Green and Liberal Democrat party members at Mid Suffolk District Council have formed a new joint group which will come into effect at next week's Full Council meeting (23 July). The new group will have 17 councillors – the same number as the administration (which comprises 16 Conservative councillors and one independent) - and will be led by Cllr Rachel Eburne of the Green Party as Group Leader and Cllr John Field of the Liberal Democrats as Deputy Group Leader. This group is not a formal political coalition but is described as "an agreement to act together to hold the Administration to account, work to form policies and bring business to a vote at Council meetings".
Further information regarding the impact of this on committee places, plus any necessary website updates, will follow next week's Full District Council Meeting.