

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

- COVID-19 - Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>. Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus
- Cabinet Meeting 9th November - Climate Change Property Investment Strategy: The Cabinet met on the 9th November, and unanimously voted in favour of a £12.8 Investment into ensuring Council buildings become carbon neutral. This is in response to the Council’s climate emergency, that was declared back in 2019, and includes offices, fire stations, libraries, and others that are owned by Suffolk County Council. I asked why this did not include schools as part of this yet. It is because most are academies, and only a few are owned by the Council, but will start to work with them next.
- Full Council Meeting 2nd December - My Group had an opportunity to submit two motions that brought about important attention to road safety in Suffolk.
 - The purpose of our first motion was to ensure that the County Council commit to enforcing 20ph zones, in light of the newly amended Highway Code, making it clear that all speed limits within a red circle are obligatory – including a 20mph limit. I will use this to again ask for 20mph at the schools!
 - Our second motion asks the County Council to confirm its responsibility to making our roads safer for Suffolk residents and visitors, by committing to further education, enforcement, and engineering. Further commitments include expanding the Bikeability scheme, meaningful engagement via a visit from a Road Safety Specialist to every school at least once every academic year, and more coordinated between services. The results of these motions are to be decided on the 2nd December, and so an update of the voting results will be sent in the first week of December.
- Meeting with Director of Public Health – Brief on COVID Enhanced Response Area Strategy & Countywide Shortage of Flu Jobs. On 26th November, the Group met with Stuart Keeble, the Director of Public Health at Suffolk County Council. This was to discuss recent shortages of flu jobs reported in Suffolk, as well as a brief on Suffolk’s Enhanced Response Area Strategy tackling the rising COVID rates. The Director of Public Health confirmed that the Enhanced Response Area program will be announced as completed, due to the falling COVID rates across Suffolk – however he was not then able to say what might happen with the new variant.
- Barton Road - I have asked why residents are now being forced to pay to have H MARKS repainted following resurfacing. If this now the policy it will effect hundreds of people across the county!
- Pokeriage Corner - I have again asked that this is looked at following the photos form the PCSO
- 1088 HGV Restrictions - A set of traffic lights on one side with a 7and ½ ton weight limit sign; this is all due to the bridge being unsuitable to take heavy HGVs, although those with a licence will be able to use it. We have asked that NOT SUITABLE FOR HGV signs be put on minor roads.
- Cycle Path Ixworth Road - having asked SCC highways and MSDC enforcement it is clear this is the responsibility of the developers .
- Follow us on:
 - Twitter - Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group (@SuffolkGLI) / Twitter
 - Website - Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group – The GLI Group at Suffolk County Council (suffolkgli.wordpress.com)

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

- Mid Suffolk District Council - Mid Suffolk’s full Council meeting on 25th November was cancelled as no substantive agenda items had been scheduled for decisions; there were two motions put forward then will be carried over to the next meeting, which is now due in January.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 01.12.2021

- The option of offering the old Primary School site to the Parish Council is being pursued by officers at Mid Suffolk, and initial conversations with both Suffolk County Council and the Diocese (the landowner) are ongoing. Similarly, it is also being investigated as to whether the site can be listed by MSDC as an 'Asset of Community Value'. I will keep the Parish Council informed as and when I have more information, and will arrange for the Steering Group to meet again once we have a further update.
- There have also been a number of initiatives launched in the previous weeks and so I have included below a summary of the major updates across the District:
 - New name for Needham Lake café and visitor centre announced - Councillors have marked the 'topping out' of the new Needham Lake café and visitor centre and announced the name will be Duck & Teapot following a public vote. Just under 2000 people took time to cast a vote for their favourite name with almost half (1031) choosing Duck & Teapot followed by 679 for The Swan's Nest and just 225 for Quacker's Café. Once completed, Duck & Teapot will offer visitors a range of refreshments and freshly cooked meals, snacks and cakes, all in the relaxing setting of Needham Lake while the visitor centre will be a flexible community event space. As Mid Suffolk's most popular free attraction, Needham Lake provides an open space for families and visitors to get close to nature, exercise or to enjoy the open space. The building itself has been designed to complement the surrounding natural environment and meets Mid Suffolk District Councils' climate change ambitions with several green features including the introduction of bird boxes, solar panels, sustainable drainage, an air source heat pump and uses sustainable building materials as part of the build.
 - Shop local on the Virtual High Street this Christmas - Finding the perfect gift while shopping local this Christmas has just become easier as the Virtual High Street unveils a raft of discounts and offers for the festive season. The Virtual High Street now has over 350 business signed up from Stowmarket, Needham Market and Eye as well as surrounding towns and villages. With everything from fashion to food, the Virtual High Street is home to a range of independent retailers, market stalls, cafés, restaurants, and professional services allowing customers to browse, order online and click & collect to help with Christmas shopping. The Virtual High Street in Needham Market launched this September and many of the businesses have been keen to get involved and share their Christmas offers. Shoppers will be able to find discounts and offers at Elton House News, Vintro Interiors, The Angel, Casa Louise, the Post Office, Little Stylish Gifts, and Coffee Craft N Moore. In Stowmarket there are festive offers at Baldwins, Langhams, Handy Hardware and Choose Refills while in Eye, Fleurs Artisan and Bruha Brewing also have great deals for customers.
 - Community car park set to play crucial role in vaccination drive - Work began on the collaborative project in August, following the transfer of land to Mid Suffolk District Council from David Wilson Homes, who are currently building new homes in the village. Proposals for this to be used as a community car park were accelerated by the council in response to growing demand for parking whilst Woolpit Health Centre is used to administer the COVID-19 and flu vaccines, in addition to providing routine GP services to patients from 30 surrounding towns and villages. The new car park will initially be used to offer 120 extra parking spaces for the health centre, with its opening being brought forward to accommodate a significant increase in the Covid-19 booster vaccinations being offered by the surgery from tomorrow, Saturday November 6. It is anticipated that around 1,500 vaccines will be administered throughout the day to those who are clinically extremely vulnerable, work in health or social care, or are aged 50 and over. Further vaccinations will take place at the health centre and other clinics across Suffolk during the winter, and details on this are available at the dedicated NHS website: <https://sneevaccine.org.uk/>

Report from District Cllr. Cllr Wendy Turner to Full Council –

- Full Council meeting - November's full council meeting was cancelled because there were not enough substantive items on the agenda. The opposition Green/LibDem group strongly disagreed with this decision, stating it eroded democracy and accountability as a result of fewer council meetings per year. The group had planned to put forward 2 issues for debate, how the council could improve house

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 01.12.2021

building standards in terms of environmental performance in relation to Cop26 and the efficiency and structure of council decision-making. These will be heard at the next meeting.

- Housing Land Supply - The Land Supply position statement currently out for consultation state that MSDC has double the minimum five-year land supply required for the provision of new homes. The opposition Green/Lib Dem councillors warned that it could mean the housing market is 'over-heated' and the council will fall short of supply in the future, leaving the council open to more government sanctioned unplanned development.
- Planning process peer review - MSDC has organised the peer review of its planning committee processes, supported by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS), to check a number of aspects of the decision-making process. The review team has been meeting with a range of stakeholders during the week to find out about their experiences before reporting back to the council with its findings and recommendations.
- Warmer Homes initiative - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have secured over £248,000 in funding from the Department for Business, Energy, and Industrial Strategy, to ensure privately rented properties in Suffolk meet minimum energy standards, ensuring warmer homes.
- First EV Taxi in Mid Suffolk - MSDC's licencing team have now licensed the first EV taxi in the district. The operator will be logging his running costs, charge locations, and experience to help the team shape our future EV policy and encourage other drivers to make the switch in future.
- Virtual High Street - MSDC's virtual high street has a Christmas campaign to try to encourage more users of the service. A number of businesses in Needham Market, Stowmarket and Eye have joined the scheme and are offering festive deals to try to encourage us to 'shop local'. More information can be found at <http://www.virtualhighstreet.uk/> .
- Woolpit Health Centre Carpark - The new carpark at Woolpit Health Centre was officially opened on November 5th and has already been used for the recent vaccination clinics. Currently access is via the existing health centre carpark, but once more homes are occupied on the adjacent housing development access will be via Old Stowmarket Road.
- Locality Awards - There is still funding from the annual locality awards. Amounts of £250 or more are available to local community groups and organisations. Please encourage groups in the village to contact me for an application form or telephone for further information and help in applying.