

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

- MEADOW LANE: at last this has been re-instated, but we need to make sure it stays like it.
- VICTORIA CLOSE: obstruction, this was reported to Matt Fox, and he has now reported back, but I will chase that up.
- NEW CROSSINGS FOR NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL: I have asked why there will not be a 20mph in the locations. Also, what temporary arrangements will be put in place. Unfortunately, the zebra crossing will not be ready in time for the new term.
- REFUGEES FROM AFGANISTAN: all councils in Suffolk are working to provide housing, and at the moment there were just 4 families in need, but I’m sure that will increase. Many people are wishing to donate clothing etc, so it is wise to go onto: <http://suffolk.gov.uk/howyoucanhelp> to find out the best place for them to be delivered and what is most wanted.
- NEW SOLAR PANEL SCHEME: I have forwarded details of the new round of solar panels scheme to the clerks which could be publicised.
- FIRE AND RESCUE APPLICANCE: 4 appliances have now been upgraded and fitted with solar panels.

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

- MSDC did not hold a full Council meeting in August as per our usual practice and so the next meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd September.
- Within Thurston, there are two points to draw to the Parish Council’s attention – the first is the postponing of the reserved matters application for the Bloor Homes site, which was due for consideration by the planning committee this morning. We received confirmation of this yesterday as Bloor indicated that they were looking to make amendments to their applications. This gives planning officers the opportunity to seek further improvements to the scheme and, depending on the length of the delay, may also mean that the outcome of the Judicial Review will have been decided, which will itself determine whether this application can progress.
- The other update regards the proposed Ben Wragge Skate Park in the village. Jo Churchill MP has requested a meeting between herself, Mid Suffolk, the Parish Council, and the Charity to discuss how to progress this project. This meeting is in the process of being organised and I will confirm once the relevant details have been agreed.
- In lieu of a substantive update on Council business I have therefore included below a summary of other developments across Mid Suffolk:
 - Welcome Back Fund - We have now written to all town and parish councils in Mid Suffolk who are eligible to apply for a share of the Welcome Back Fund. Completed request forms should be returned to us as soon as possible to ensure that communities do not miss out on this important funding opportunity. In order to distribute the funding fairly, we have offered a selection of items to help each town and parish create a welcoming and safe environment for local trade and tourism as we exit the coronavirus restrictions. The Welcome Back Fund is also supporting a range of events in our key towns, such as a community bounce back event in Needham Market and activity trails in Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket.
 - Help Suffolk say thanks - We are fortunate to have an incredible volunteer network in Mid Suffolk, with many of our residents having gone the extra mile during the past 16 months. To recognise their efforts, we will be distributing Suffolk Says Thanks badges over the coming months. If you know of anyone in your community who you think deserves a badge, please email our communities team, who can arrange for this to be sent out.
 - Developing a ‘joined-up’ strategy for parking in our districts - This week, Babergh and Mid Suffolk cabinets approved work starting on the formulation of a parking strategy for both districts. The joint strategy will look at all elements of parking – including everything from

on-street and off-street parking, through to the economic, environmental and community impacts – to ensure that shoppers, tourists, visitors, residents, workers and commuters have access to sufficient, good quality, safe, welcoming parking opportunities. The parking strategy, due to be approved by September 2022, will look at our districts’ needs over the next five to ten years – including aspects such as housing growth, business and tourism, as well as environmental and wellbeing factors. The development of the strategy will, of course, involve consultation with our town and parish councils, residents and businesses, as well as other local authorities, plus a range of organisations including disability forums, emergency services and hospitals, transport operators, voluntary and community groups, Chambers of Commerce and local town vision groups.

- 2021 Annual Canvass now underway - The annual canvass process is now underway and we are asking residents to check their details on the electoral register are up to date to ensure they do not lose their right to vote. To help streamline the process we are encouraging this to be done electronically and continue to provide reassurance that annual canvass emails from us are genuine.

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

- New Homes - Mid Suffolk District Council and Norse Group open show homes on the former Needham Market office complex. This joint venture was set up to deliver housing and promote sustainable growth across the district. There will be a total of 133 new houses, flats and bungalows, a natural community space, walk and library. Green party councillors were disappointed that the homes were not exemplar social housing built to the highest passive standards, which would have provided much needed homes for local people and secure an income for the Council for years to come.
- Gateway 14 - Planning permission for the controversial Gateway 14 156 acre business and logistics park which is to be sited between the A14 and the A1120 at Stowmarket have been approved, despite heavy opposition from local people, ward Councillors, Creting St Peter Parish Council and the Gateway 14 Residents Campaign Group. Concerns about the increase in traffic, HGVs using narrow country lanes and the reduced landscaping areas around the site were raised.
- Woolpit car park - Construction began on a community car park at Woolpit Health Centre which will see an additional 120 spaces created. The health centre worked with Suffolk County Council, NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and Woopit parish council to make this happen.
- New Taxi legislation - Taxi Drivers will need to transition to zero emission cars by 2030 without financial support from MSDC after the Licensing Committee voted to update its vehicle hire policy. Green and Lib Dem members argued for financial incentives and support to help taxi drivers make the transition
- Housing 21 - Housing 21 a non-for-profit provider of retirement housing have applied for planning permission to build a 54 bed extra care homes in Thurston, 40 of which will be apartments, 14 bungalows and communal areas. Thurston ward Councillor Wendy Turner has been working with the owners of the land, Housing 21 and local residents to push for higher passive building standards and greater environmental protection for the surrounding hedges and trees.
- Afghan refugees - Mid Suffolk District council along with other district and Borough have stated they are committed to re homing Afghan people who have fled their homeland but as of yet details have not been confirmed as to how this will be implemented.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 01.09.2021

- Biodiversity gain - Mid Suffolk District council have purchased almost 3 acres of land to provide a green space for flora and fauna in Wash Lane, Great Finborough as part of the Council's drive to increase biodiversity and improve the environment for local people.
- Devolution - Suffolk Councils have written to the Secretary of State for local government about early devolution talks with the government, after setting out its ambition to make available to county areas, similar devolved decision-making powers and public funding enjoyed by cities and urban areas.
- Norton pedestrian crossing - Suffolk County Councillor Andy Mellen and Cllr Turner met with a Highways representative and the Chair of Norton PC to discuss options of a pedestrian crossing for the village. Cllr Mellen is funding a highways report to see if there is a viable crossing place along the A1088.
- Skate Park - Councillor Wendy Turner met with Roger Smith, trustee of the Ben Wragge Skate Park Group in Thurston to discuss how to move forward plans for a skate park that has been in the pipeline for 5 years. The sticking block is lack of parish land on which to site the skatepark. Cllr Turner suggested looking at 'skate spots' options, which might offer a compromise to youngsters whilst suitable land is found. Roger is currently looking into this.
- Foot/Cycle path clearing - Councillor Wendy Turner has organised a working party of Councillors and volunteers to help clear the overgrown cycle and footpath from Thurston to Beyton on the 4th of September between 2 and 4pm. Contact Wendy on 07548155748 for more details.