

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

- For information on local support during the Cost-of-Living Crisis, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/suffolk-advice-and-support-service/> Latest SCC COVID information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- For information on supporting Ukrainian refugees in Suffolk, email: [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk)
- Budget - The first proposals for the 2023/24 budget have been released. SCC plan to increase tax by 3.99% (1.99% increase in Council Tax, 2% increase in Social Care Precept). Conservative administration had opportunities to prepare. Instead, they rejected our proposals last year to increase funding for social care – which has resulted in a sharp increase in tax this year for residents.
- County Deal Update - National government met with Suffolk County Council to sign a provisional County Deal. The Deal will agree to devolve additional powers and funding to the County, including housing, transport and adult education. The Deal has been lauded as a momentous, however our Group believes that this Deal has been massively overstated. The headline ‘£480m’ is in fact over 30 years – equating to only around £16m a year. The Conservative Council Leader promised we wouldn’t have a Mayor, however the deal agrees to create a Mayoral Development Corporation. Politically, there is a real risk of stagnation – with the elected Mayor potentially from one party and the majority of Councillors from another. Our Group are strongly in favour of devolving national powers to local authorities. There was a real opportunity to make a difference here, but our Group sees the current deal as merely a token gesture. For our full press release, visit our website: <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/2022/12/12/suffolks-county-deal-big-deal/>
- New SCC Website - Suffolk County Council have launched their new website. The new site is aimed to be easier and simpler. I understand that this is often the first point of contact for residents and so it is important the website continues to engage and adapt to the needs of the Suffolk communities. If you have problems let them or me know. To see the new site, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/>
- Modern Slavery - As the Council’s modern slavery annual statement was voted through cabinet, SCC have released an information bulletin to report any possible signs of modern slavery within your local communities. General signs of modern slavery can include: Isolation, restricted movement, poor living conditions, unusual travel arrangements, and physical appearance of abuse. If you suspect a modern slavery crime is being committed, but there is no immediate risk of harm, you can report it to the Police on 101, or the Modern Slavery and Exploitation Helpline on 0800 121 700 – if there is immediate danger, phone 999. For further contact, email: [community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:community.safety@suffolk.gov.uk) For more information, visit: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/community-and-safety/communities/community-safety/modern-slavery>
- Suffolk looks for more hosts - Suffolk is looking for new hosts to help support refugees. Accommodation must be available to guests for a minimum of 6 months. Hosts will be eligible to receive the £350 thank you payment for up to 6 months or more, depending on the date your guests arrived in the UK (12 months starting from the date your guests first arrived in the UK). If you know anyone that might be interested, please encourage them sign up via the Suffolk County Council website, or by emailing [refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk](mailto:refugeesupport@suffolk.gov.uk).
- A14 Works - you should have received info on the proposed work and closure of any slip roads and future work on the concrete section.
- Police Precept - I have sent details of survey asking for your views.
- Highways Drainage Schemes - I have been sent a list and there is nothing for Thurston. If there should be please let me know. Should this include Barton Road and Old Norton Road?

## Appendix D -

### District Cllr. Harry Richardson's Report to Full Council –

- **Council leaders welcome landmark devolution deal for Suffolk** - The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed an “ambitious and exciting” devolution deal for Suffolk. [More information.](#)
- **Councils strive to keep charges fair – and help those most in need** - Council leaders at Babergh and Mid Suffolk are due to discuss future fees and charges for council services – pledging to keep increases fair and continue to support those in need. [More information.](#)
- **Revealed: winning names for Babergh and Mid Suffolk's new environmentally friendly bin lorries** - Ed Sheerbin, Gary Bineker and Stranger Bins are amongst the winning names for Babergh and Mid Suffolk's new environmentally friendly bin lorries, revealed last month. [More information.](#)
- **Pioneering councils complete £2.8m carbon-cutting solar investment to slash leisure centres' reliance on the grid by close to half** - Over 100 council car parking spaces in Sudbury and Stowmarket have been covered with solar panels, to help power and reduce carbon emissions at two council-owned leisure centres. [More information.](#)
- **Councils' new tenancy policy recognises 'a home is not just a house'** - Council tenants across Babergh and Mid Suffolk can look forward to continuing certainty over their homes with the possible adoption of the councils' new tenancy policy. [More information.](#)
- **Councils' successful bid for housing fund pot** - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are amongst local authorities to win funding from the Local Government Association to commission a vital, county-wide housing strategy review. [More information.](#)
- **Christmas holidays full of fun for families and children** - Inflatable games, adventure days and cooking classes made up a week of fun for children and young people in Babergh and Mid Suffolk this Christmas. [More information.](#)
- **First tree planted at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket** - 6<sup>th</sup> December saw the first tree planted at Gateway 14 in Stowmarket, to mark the start of the landscaping regeneration at the site. [More information.](#)
- **Stowmarket residents help shape masterplan for new health, leisure, sport, education, and wellbeing hub** - Plans for the development of new health, education and leisure facilities in Stowmarket are progressing following the feedback gathered from recent community and stakeholder engagement. [More information.](#)
- **Town and Parish liaison meetings – a reminder** - Mid Suffolk District Council are reinstating their regular meetings with town and parish councils, with invitations already issued via clerks. The next session, in early February, will be an opportunity to share current thinking on Mid Suffolk's budget setting, update on progress with the Joint Local Plan and plans for the 2023 elections. We would also like to hear about town and parish plans for local Coronation celebrations and introduce our new locality officers and approach.

### District Cllr. Austin Davies' Report to Full Council –

- MSDC Meeting - There was no council meeting this month.
- Joint Scrutiny Committee - Deputised at this meeting during which Suffolk Association of Local Councils gave a presentation explaining the support they provide to Parish Council Chairs and Clerks. Started a campaign to establish formal links and support from MSDC to SALC.
- Planning - Undertook the in-house planning training session. Still no progress on the Heath Road development. DC/22/ 00398 Follow up meeting postponed so call in still has not happened. EN/22/00335, EN/22/00492 Barrell's Road, our MSDC enforcement officer has confirmed that there have been breaches of the planning approval. The next steps are awaited.

## Appendix C and D – Minutes of 11.01.2023

- Briefing on Residents survey - MSDC officers briefed councillors on the results of the 2022 residents survey. There were high levels of trust in MSDC, and the majority felt that a good job was being done. However, only 16% of residents thought that they could influence the council decisions
- Thurston Primary School (Car Parking) - Met with Mr Bayes, head of Thurston Primary School to understand the parent car parking issue. Witness the smooth operation of the morning drop off. Clearly the evening pick up is causing great concern. In comparing the approved plans with the actual car park it is clear that at least 3 spaces have not been provided (not that this would solve the parent parking issue). However, it would help as the school expands. Will discuss options with our planning officers to see how the design of the next phase on the Linden Homes development might assist.
- Community Action for Thurston Station (CATS) - Met with this campaign group who explained that it was proving difficult to find potential tenants for the station building because of the real short lease terms and the lack of vehicle access. Have written to Network Rail asking for clarifications.
- Gateway 14 - The 'Range' warehousing will have solar panels on its roof which will make a major contribution to its energy needs.
- Community Infrastructure Levy - MSDC Officers provided a forum for all Parish Councils to increase their understanding on CIL and the appropriate processes.
- Locality Fund - Working on the request to help Tostock village hall. Application for support from all local organisations welcome before the end of January MSDC Meeting (November: