

**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)
- Cost of Living Budget Survey – SCC Open up for your thoughts - SCC has released a survey to local residents, asking for their thoughts on the upcoming 2023/24 budget. A summary of responses will be considered when deciding how to spend your money. With inflationary pressures, our Group expects government to seek spending cuts – meaning public services could be cut and council Reserves may have to be used. Our Group fully recommends you share your thoughts on how the Council should spend their money, as well as highlight vulnerabilities you see in your communities that need further addressing. For a link to the online survey, click here: <https://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/7BQY0J/>
- Cost-of-Living Leaflet: Updated to Show Support - Over 85,000 leaflets, highlighting information and guidance during the crisis, were distributed amongst Suffolk communities. The leaflet shows all the help Suffolk offers with finances and household expenses, as well as how to stay warm this winter. Our Group strongly suggest anyone vulnerable to take a look at how Suffolk can help. For a link to the leaflet, click here: <https://suffolk.pagetiger.com/cost-of-living-support/scc1>
- SCC’s Launch of ‘Winter Matters’ Campaign - SCC have launched their Winter Matters campaign, which aims to help ease the pressures of winter for Suffolk residents. This is a signposting campaign that centres around five key themes: Finances, Safety, Environment, Health and Wellbeing, and Highways. For more information and advice on how SCC can support you during winter, visit: [www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/wintermatters)
- Full Council – 20th October – GLI Motion - Suffolk GLI submitted a motion calling for Suffolk County Council to reject the idea of an “Anti-Growth Coalition”. The term, coined by former PM Liz Truss, suggests anyone who criticised the government’s economic policy was part of a coordinated group against growing our economy. Our Group wanted Suffolk County Council to denounce this term and acknowledge the importance in different opinions – including the view that growth should consider social responsibilities, community voices, sound financial policy, and environmental limits. Something we believed this government was not adhering to. The Conservatives voted against our motion, however we still feel it is important that our local authorities reject untruthful and divisive claims made by a Prime Minister.
- Cabinet Meeting – 11<sup>th</sup> October - The Cabinet met for the first time since the summer political recess. The Cabinet agreed to spend £2m on new care provision for Children and Young People in Felixstowe. In addition, SEND services received £10m to provide more specialist units in Suffolk. Our Group was hugely supportive, as we want to remove the pattern of families travelling cross-county for support. The Suffolk Local Access Forum submitted their annual report, which included their concerns about Sizewell C and its effect on green networks and Rights of Way. Our Group have strongly campaigned in support of the Forum’s position, and we will continue to voice concerns over the damning effects of nuclear power on our coastal landscape and biodiversity. In addition, the Cabinet endorsed Transport East’s new 2050 strategy, which focusses more on green travel and linking rural communities to local economies. Our Group recognises the importance of connecting isolated residents for both profession and pleasure, and we will ensure SCC adopts all priorities into its own policy.
- A14 Work on concrete section - I forwarded details of the public meetings, but email highways England to say I was disappointed at the very short notice given. This will be a major project lasting many months and residents needed to know the details of any diversions, particularly where they could impact on the villages.

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- Extension to Thurston Community College - I joined the on-line meeting to discuss the CIL BID. I'm afraid there are still many issues that were not available at the time, including how to deal with parking if the current land offer is not finalised.
- Footpath - we have all tried to get the land north of Norton Road dealt with.

### Appendix D -

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

- Residents urged to have their say over whether council tax bills should be reduced by up to 100% for those on low incomes - A public consultation is underway over a plan to cut council tax for the poorest households in Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The consultation, which runs to November 24, asks for views on how the councils should run their Council Tax Reduction Scheme for 2023/24, and whether bills should be reduced by up to 100% for working age adults with the lowest incomes. [More information](#)
- Winter warmth funding for community causes - Thousands of pounds were made available to grassroots groups last month to keep the doors of their activities open for longer this winter. The [Winter Warmth Support Grant](#), offered groups and non-profit organisations between £250 to £5,000 to cover the rising costs of energy, rent and food, and to keep operating without passing on increased costs to residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. [More information](#)
- Winners announced for the Babergh and Mid Suffolk Innovation Awards 2022 - The winners of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Innovations Awards have been revealed. [More information](#)
- New Innovate to Elevate programme launches for businesses - Businesses in Babergh & Mid Suffolk are set to receive an innovation boost as a new 12-month partnership between the University of Essex and the District Councils launches in the region. [More information](#)
- Councils' commercial property arm continues to generate income for districts - Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property company CIFCO made a £6.7m profit last year and generated £3.7m in net income for the councils to plough back into services, councillors heard during October. [More information](#)
- Residents to help name Babergh and Mid Suffolk's new bin lorries - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have launched a competition to help them name their new environmentally-friendly bin lorries – in the biggest upgrade to their fleet in almost 10 years.
- Residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being invited to submit names for 22 brand-new bin lorries at [www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/binlorrycompetition](http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/binlorrycompetition). The competition closes at midnight on Sunday 13 November, with winners contacted later in the year. [More information](#)
- Bird flu outbreak - Information on the recent bird flu outbreak in Suffolk. [More information](#)
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- **First stage of Women's Tour brings more than a million reasons to celebrate** The Women's Tour 2022 has revealed the fantastic impact of the first stage of the UK's biggest women's cycling event, with more than £1m of net economic benefit poured into the regional economy. [More information](#)
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- [Anyone can become homeless](#)
- In recognition of World Homelessness Day, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils encouraged residents to challenge their view of what homelessness looks like. [More information](#)
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- **Campaign launched to improve metal packaging recycling rates across Suffolk** A new initiative encouraging households to recycle food and drink cans, aluminium foil and trays,

empty aerosols and metal screw caps has been rolled out by the Suffolk Waste Partnership, which includes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. [More information](#)

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- [Three finalists for Babergh and Mid Suffolk at Building Excellence Awards](#)
- The councils' Building Control Team has won three regional awards in the annual Local Authority Building Control (LABC) Building Excellence Awards for Angel Court, Hadleigh (Best Small Social Housing Development), The Regal, Stowmarket (Best Non-Residential Extension or Alteration) and Low Street, Glemsford (Best Small New Housing Development). They now move onto the national final in London in January 2023. [More information](#)
- Global bank to give students unique careers advice in jobs clinic - Young people looking for help, advice or an insight into a new career were able to take part in a careers session last month, with advice from global employer and high street bank HSBC as part of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk's Careeriosity programme. [More information](#)
- October half-term fun to keep the kids active - Dozens of council-funded activities took place across Babergh and Mid Suffolk during October half term, keeping children and families, happy, healthy and active. [More information](#)
- New unit for retail giant The Range gets go-ahead at Gateway 14, Stowmarket, and will create 1,650 jobs - Detailed planning consent has been given for the first unit at Gateway 14, Stowmarket, to be occupied by home, garden and leisure products retailer The Range - creating an estimated 1,650 jobs. [More information](#)
- Exemplar housing development for Elmswell to be considered - Council-owned land in Elmswell could be used for a development of 50 environmentally friendly low carbon homes in a scheme going before Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet members this month. [More information](#)
- Stage is set for expansion at the John Peel Centre - Iconic Stowmarket venue, the John Peel Centre for Creative Arts, is set to welcome more visitors, events, and experiences, as they expand into neighbouring 11 Market Place. [More information](#)
- How council scheme helped Harleston's wildflower Jubilee Meadow bloom Harleston's - Wildflower Jubilee meadow showcases a colourful example of how we are helping to tackle biodiversity and climate change. [More information](#)
- Raising awareness of chosen charity - Mid Suffolk's Chairman, Cllr James Caston, hosted a fund-raising wine tour and tasting experience at Burnt House Vineyard in Little Finborough raising funds for the [Stowmarket ASD Saturday Clubs](#), which support families looking after children and young people with autism. [More information](#)

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

- MSDC Meeting (October):
  - The performance of the £49 Million retail property portfolio was reported. In 2021/22 a yield of 3.5% was made. Questions were raised as to the effect of the current economic conditions on its future performance. Within the overview committee it was resolved that Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee recommend to Mid Suffolk Cabinet that, as part of the development of the electric bus project, local consultations to elicit unmet transport needs should be carried out – one covering an urban area and one covering a rural area.
  - Joint Local Development scheme 2022-25 was discussed and adopted.
  - Questions were asked about what provisions were being made to continue the support to our Ukrainian guests.
- Planning:

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- Continuing to push implementation of the Heath Road development.
- Supported the Thurston Parish Council position on the Linden Homes phase2 application with safeguards for the established woodland of Lady Green Plantation for our community.
- 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. No word as yet on what changes are to be made following the planning peer review or our councils request for leave to appeal the outcome of the Judicial Review.
- Ben Wragge 33 acres - Members of West Suffolk District Council strongly suggest that MSDC creates an out of area CIL project. Explore ways of progressing the funding of this project. Our electoral officer requires cabinet support before researching how to change our Parish/District boundary. Neighbouring residents feedback/meeting planned with their views to be given to the project team.
- Gateway 14 - Site creation is on track with 'The Range' distribution warehouse schedule to open before the end of 2023 which will provide many new career opportunities for our residents.
- Environmental/biodiversity news - Suffolk Public Sector Leaders (SPSL) unanimously agreed funding today to create a new Fuel Poverty Retrofit Team, helping those most affected by the rising cost-of-living. It will be part of the Warm Homes Suffolk scheme, which was jointly established by Suffolk County Council, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, West Suffolk Council, East Suffolk Council and Ipswich Borough Council in 2021. The scheme is a source of expert advice on reducing energy bills and in identifying benefits that residents may be entitled to. This winter, Warm Homes Suffolk extends its support further with the creation of a Fuel Poverty Retrofit Team: supporting residents in energy-inefficient homes, struggling most to afford rising energy bills. More than 62,000 properties in the county are thought to have the worst Energy Performance Certificates (EPC) of E, F or G. And an estimated 28% of homes - 95,000 households – are in fuel poverty, almost double the number in 2019.SPSL today pledged £366,000 to create the new team to tackle the challenges, with a further £390,000 of funding underwritten. Measures could include the installation of insulation, fitting air source heat pumps and replacing single glazing.
- Community Infrastructure Levy - Continued expansion of Thurston Community College is progressing.
- Beyton Geese - Bird flu measures have once again been correctly implemented in Beyton which has resulted in their famous Geese being pended up again.