

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
- Full Council: Conservatives Reject our Motion for a Cost-of-Living Emergency - Full Council was on 7th July. Our Group submitted a motion asking the Council to declare a cost-of-living EMERGENCY. Our motion called for this Government to cut VAT on insulation material to encourage uptake. The motion also called for Suffolk County Council to lead a Retrofit Taskforce in Suffolk, alongside District and Borough Councils, to help train and coordinate our local workforce in installing solar panels, air source heat pumps, and insulation. To view our motion in full, visit our website: <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/blog/>
- Cabinet - The Cabinet met 26th July to discuss the safeguarding of adults and children, new guidance on STREET DESIGN, New guidance for streets encourages developers to prioritise active travel, focussing on walking, cycling, public transport, ensuring disabled residents have greater accessibility.
- The pandemic has had a lasting effect on mental health and services in safeguarding and corporate parenting will need to evolve services in the future to be in line with the growing demand.
- In addition, the Fire Service is currently reviewing its response times to emergencies.
- Thermal Cameras for Net Zero - The Suffolk Climate Change Partnership is supporting local groups and parish councils to help identify homes which are losing heat. With insulation, local residents will see their energy costs reduce. The Partnership aims to loan out these cameras to parish councils and those who are interested. I strongly supports this. If you would like to register your interest in the project, complete the short form linked below: <https://forms.office.com/r/gSypak2ae8>
- SCC Carers Strategy – Unpaid Carers Opinions Wanted - Suffolk’s Health and Wellbeing are working towards a new All Age Carers Strategy, to help ensure carers get the support they need. There are estimated to be 98,000 unpaid carers in Suffolk. A consultation on the draft strategy has been launched. Our Group encourages all carers to contribute their views and help make this strategy inclusive and purposeful. Deadline is 15th August. Details of the consultation can be found here: www.suffolk.gov.uk/CarerStrategy
- Petition for in-house Suffolk Highways maintenance contract: Still need signatures! Our Group’s petition continues, demanding that SCC produces an in-house bid for the new Suffolk Highways contract. The contract, which will have been held by Kier for 10 years, is up for renewal next year. There is no time limit at the moment. We need 3,675 signatures to bring this to debate at the Council. Please sign here (ensure you make your name public, or it won’t count!): <https://www.petitions.net/for-suffolk-county-council-to-develop-an-in-house-bid-for-suffolk-highways-maintenance>
- Network Rail: at last having spoken to Christine Thurlow looks like Network rail have started work AGAIN and meeting arranged for 17th August.
- Ben Wragge Skate Park: I am meeting with Highways and Roger Smith to look at the road situation in the proposed area.
- HGV’s Review: this has now been completed and all parishes should have received a letter and response. This has not proved at all satisfactory in many areas where changes were asked for.
- Buses;; I have asked why the Stephenson 384/5 will now only run-on school days. There are plenty of people who need this service .

Appendix D -

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

- Blueprint for the future of social housing approved - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved their blueprint for the future of social housing in our districts. It will ensure that our tenants have good quality and sustainable homes, in safe neighbourhoods. [More information](#)
- Nominations now OPEN for the Innovations Awards - Our Innovation Awards showcase the talent, forward-thinking and innovation in business across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. This can be anything from using new ways to communicate with customers, delivering new services, launching new products, or integrating new, cutting-edge technology. There are nine free-to-enter categories covering a range of sectors. [More information](#)
- Energy Rebate scheme to be extended - Residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who have been unable to access financial support through the Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme may now be able to do so through a discretionary fund. [More information](#)
- Wildflowers to spring up across Babergh and Mid Suffolk - Our councils are trialling wildflower verges across our districts, as part of efforts to tackle biodiversity and climate change. [More information](#)
- £450,000 more funding for community causes now available - Community groups across Babergh and Mid Suffolk can now bid for a share of £450,000 to improve their neighbourhoods, thanks to the two new Community Development Grants. [More information](#)
- Supporting our districts through recent extreme temperatures - Steps were put in place last month to support residents across Babergh and Mid during extreme weather conditions, with the first ever heat-related red weather warning issued for the county. [More information](#)
- Councils take action to help restore empty homes into family homes - Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils' new Empty Homes Policy is set to reduce the number of long-term empty properties in the districts. There are currently over 1000 empty properties across the districts which, once restored, will help ease the growing demand for homes for residents. [More information](#)
- Councils lead the way towards sustainable travel vision - Babergh and Mid Suffolk are taking the next step towards a sustainable travel solution, aiming to increase active travel and help tackle climate change. [More information](#)
- Summer holiday activities to support families over the school break - An array of activities are being staged during the summer holidays to provide entertainment and support to families across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. From adventure days to swimming, cooking classes to woodwork there is something to keep everyone occupied and active over the summer holidays thanks to Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and partners. [More information](#)
- Milestone reached on Chambers Green Development - The completion of the first phase development at Chambers Green in Needham Market has been marked by councillors and representatives from Mid Suffolk Growth. [More information](#)
- New community street art mural coming to Stowmarket - A new mural, painted by Stowmarket's students and designed by talented local artist, is coming to the hoardings at the town's recreation ground. Mid Suffolk District Council and Pentaco Construction have joined forces with local illustrator and art lecturer Joel Millerchip to organise an art project inviting everyone to add their input to a new mural and leave a 'more meaningful mark' in their community at Stowmarket's free Family Fun Day on Friday 5 August. [More information](#)

District Cllr. Austin Davies' Report to Full Council –

- MSDC Meeting – Our innovations awards competition entries close on the 14th August.
- The 4th review of guidelines for the investment of CIL District funds was presented by the officers. A cross party committee of Councillors had carried out the work and recommended the following changes:-
 - New heating systems for community buildings to be included
 - Up to 100% of the cost of installing charging point for Electric Vehicles
 - Museums continue to be supported as are open spaces that do not change the public for admission.
 - Schools, Health and rail projects have the highest priority.
 - A pilot £100 k for a cycleway within the LCWIP strategy.
- For capital projects Parish Infrastructure Plans (PIPs) are key elements in the decision-making process. Religious buildings can now be included. MSDC is now starting to review the CIL delivery plan. This was last carried out in 2020.
- The Green Party motion to create economies of scale in improving the insulation and other carbon reduction technology in houses by combining our needs with other councils under the Suffolk Public Sector Leaders was passed.
- Gateway 14 - Plans and the creation of Gateway 14 are progressing well. The Range have agreed to occupy a large warehouse area on our site. This will create several hundred new jobs for our local community. This warehouse will be built as a sustainable building. To ensure we are able to meet the agreed build deadlines MSDC agreed to change the investment phasing, bring forward an additional £5 million.
- Joint Audit and standards committee - Attended the above meeting for the first time. Approved the BMSDC audit report for 2021/22. Treasury report for 2021/22 showed a large underspend compared to budget. Still awaiting clear explanation on why?
- Planning - Continuing to push for enforcement clarification on Barrell Road development.
- Electoral services - Asking for the Thurston Parish boundary to be changed to include the proposed new recreational area.
- Locality grants - Supported the refresh work on the Thurston war memorial.