

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
- No Government Funding for Bus Back Better - The Department for Transport have confirmed Suffolk County Council will not receive any funding for their Bus Back Better strategy. The strategy was aimed to improve and expand bus services in Suffolk, connecting rural areas to local and important towns, as well as reduce carbon emissions in line with the goal to become net zero by 2050.
- Cabinet Meeting 26th April - The Cabinet met to discuss Suffolk County Council’s Post-16 Travel Policy for 2022-23. The policy outlines all the support offered to those who struggle to afford the travel sending their child to education, training, or an apprenticeship. The Cabinet voted to freeze the increase in costs to parents/guardians, meaning the price remains at £930 per year for a Mainstream Seat, and £750 for a Special Educational Needs and Disability (SEND) Seat. I still say this is a LOT of money for many parents and students. The Cabinet discussed the positive report Suffolk County Council received from Ofsted’s inspection into Care Leaver services. And have successfully helped them transition to independence.
- County Deal – Key Communications - Back in February, Suffolk was announced as one of nine county areas to be invited to negotiate a County Deal – a deal that would see Suffolk have more control over decisions in transport, education, skills, housing, and planning. The administration announced Suffolk would be pursuing a deal without the recommendation of a Mayor. Our Group agrees with this position. The Council has confirmed that discussions with ministers are expected soon, and they will be responding with their expectations of what Suffolk would achieve in terms of the government’s Levelling-up strategy.
- H MARKINGS BARTON ROAD - at last have had and sent the elongated response but hopefully these will now be replaced.
- FISHWICK CORNER - another serious accident which I and many others have reported included Dr West. We need to get a better solution here asap.
- NORTON ROAD 2 NEW CROSSINGS - whilst I have said I supported these but that the temporary lights need to get removed asap and that the work must keep scheduling. Unfortunately, Sandpit road have overrun but I have been assured they will get that back on track.
- UKRAINE REFUGEES - at a meeting with the head of social care it is obvious that the council and families prepared to take refugees are still finding it very difficult. There has been a real concern about accompanied children and offers by the very elderly to house male refugees. I am able to pass on any specific concerns.
- Follow us on: Twitter - Suffolk Green, Lib Dem & Independent Group (@SuffolkGLI) / Twitter
- Instagram (New!) - https://www.instagram.com/suffolkgli_group/
- 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 did not meet in April and so I have included below a summary of the main updates from the last month:

- Playing our part to support Ukrainian refugees - Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have pledged their full backing for the Ukrainian people, with the offer of help for refugees arriving in the districts and support for the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Both councils are represented on Suffolk’s Ukraine Task Group alongside representatives from the county’s other local authorities, three Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health Outreach, Suffolk police, Suffolk Refugee Support, Anglia Care Trust and Community Action Suffolk. The Task Group exists to

ensure that refugees' arrival into Suffolk goes as smoothly as possible – considering how best to meet refugees' health and wellbeing needs, what assistance can be provided with school admissions, and how we can offer support to help with integration and ESOL (English for speakers of other languages), particularly if there are lots of people arriving in dispersed, rural locations. If you have questions about what we are doing in across the districts and the county to support Ukrainian Refugees. Information on how you can help is available on the Suffolk Council website.

If you are interested in offering accommodation, you can find out more about the scheme and how to register at Home For Ukraine. The government have issued a Ukraine welcome pack that includes information you may find useful. Information is also available on the Reset website which help you to register and match refugees from Ukraine with sponsors across the UK. The Councils or Suffolk County Council will be in touch to confirm how to claim grants when more information is available.

- Ground-breaking ceremony marks start of construction at Gateway 14 - Construction is officially underway at Gateway 14 – the multi-million-pound business, innovation and logistics development in Stowmarket. The 'ground-breaking' ceremony saw Mid Suffolk District Council leader Cllr Suzie Morley put the first spade in the ground on the site, which is set to create hundreds of jobs for the district, boost the local economy and attract investment into the region. The development, by Gateway 14 Ltd (wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council) and
- development manager, Jaynic, will provide a new base for manufacturing, logistics and R&D businesses as well as providing innovation space for smaller and start-up businesses. Located close to junction 50 of the A14 near Stowmarket, the 2.45m sq ft site, the landmark development is designed to a high specification with sustainability at the centre with features such as EV charging, LED lighting, solar PV, smart energy systems and rainwater harvesting. The development will meet a minimum BREEAM rating of Very Good and excellent wherever possible. Accessibility through and around the development is a key feature with significant walking and cycling routes being integrated along with access to public transport links and local amenities. Biodiversity on the site is also a priority, with high-quality landscaping, green corridors and nesting boxes all being introduced across the site to support not only the wildlife and ecology but also to create a vibrant, attraction and healthy working environment for employees.
- Councils join forces with GPs to keep residents fit - Mid Suffolk and Babergh have expanded their GP referral schemes to include tailored support for residents to improve their health and wellbeing. In partnership with local health partners and the councils' leisure providers – Abbeycroft Leisure and Everyone Active – both councils are continuing to grow the number of GP referral programmes at their leisure centres. Through the programmes, doctors refer patients with common medical conditions such as obesity, hypertension, or type 2 diabetes, to the councils' local gyms for a programme of tailored exercise over a set period. Once on the road to recovery, patients are then encouraged to continue their rehabilitation and improved health through a longer-term membership. A programme is available at Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre in Stowmarket, with one also soon to launch at Stradbroke Pool and Fitness Centre, ensuring support for residents across the two districts. As a result, hundreds of Babergh and Mid Suffolk patients have now been supported via the schemes since their inception. The schemes form part of councils' commitment to supporting residents with their health, wellbeing, and recovery post-Covid, as set out in our wellbeing strategy.

District Cllr. Austin Davies' Report to Full Council –

- MSDC Meeting - There was no Mid Suffolk Council in April.
- Housing Revenue Account - Mid Suffolk District Council tenants have been selected to take part in a satisfaction survey during late March and Early April. Results available in May.
- Council Tax - MSDC is arranging for those eligible in bands A to D to receive their £150 central government payment, whether they pay by direct debit or cheque etc.
- Gateway 14 - The ground-breaking ceremony has now taken place at the Gateway 14 site. The development is on track with all Councillors being briefed on progress and issues. All buildings have the capacity to have solar panels, however, the National Grid does the local capacity to accept the levels of electricity this site could generate. MSDC officers have been asked to explore possibilities including 'Green Hydrogen' generation.
- MSDC ring fenced CIL - Officials briefed your Ward Councillors on the MSDC ring fenced CIL position. Of the £3.385 Million, only £2.215 Million is currently unallocated. Further extension to Thurston Community College is planned. Then there are 3 emerging bids. These are Thurston rail station improvement, Site for a MUGA and a suitable site for a skateboard park. It was explained that, where residents from surrounding communities use a facility, that communities CIL fund can be proportionally allocated to create this new infrastructure. Thurston Library has now submitted a CIL enquiry (sponsored by A Davies) with a proposal to expand its floor area to enable it to provide a public toilet, rooms for IT access groups (study areas, social meeting spaces, maker spaces). Thurston Library has recently invested in the children's area to great effect and would now wishes to invest in Teen areas and additional inclusion services.
- Planning - MSDC passed the application for 54-unit extra care affordable housing scheme comprising 40 apartments, 14 bungalows and communal areas.
- Ukrainian support - Members of our community have welcomed the first Ukrainian refugees into their homes. Their children are joining appropriate local schools. MSDC carries the responsibility for inspecting prospective homes whilst the SCC is responsible for all other aspects of our support.