

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
- The County Mourned for the Death of Her Majesty - Cllrs within our Group attended Proclamations throughout the County. The news of Queen Elizabeth II’s passing meant the Council was in a time of mourning. Many meetings, including Cabinet were cancelled. Group members attended ceremonies in their divisions for the funeral. I attended the service in the cathedral in Bury St Edmunds.
- Suffolk in talks to become Investment Zone - Suffolk County Council has let it be known that it has agreed to start discussions with Government to become an investment zone as part of the PM’s new growth and investment strategy. Our political group has gone on record in the media that we are opposed to the idea since the Government says it wants to remove environmental controls and planning controls within these zones. Since the council began talks, the RSPB, National Trust and the Wildlife Trusts, including Suffolk Wildlife Trust have all described the plans, announced in Kwasi Kwarteng’s mini budget, as “an attack on nature”.
- Open Letter sent by GLI Leader to Conservative Councillors - Cllr Andrew Stringer, our Group Leader, has sent an open letter to all Conservative Councillors at SCC. The letter asks this Council to disassociate itself from the policies outlined by PM Liz Truss and Chancellor Kwasi Kwarteng. Cllr Stringer states the government’s approach - scrapping planning rules, ripping up environmental protections, and reopening fracking sites - will cause irreversible damage to nature and Net Zero.
- Warm Homes Suffolk Fund – Access Free funding and Advice - Suffolk’s councils have joined together to establish Warm Homes Suffolk. The service will offer expert advice on reducing energy bills and usage, as well benefits you may be entitled to during this crisis. The fund is open to homeowners, renters, and landlords and will target homes that need insulating and more efficient heating. For more information, visit: www.warmhomessuffolk.org or call 03456 037 686.
- Suffolk GLI Respond to Cancelled Taxi Contracts - One of the big stories in the local news has been the increase in taxi companies cancelling SCC contracts to provide school transportation. Young people and children, including those with SEND needs, have once again had their education and development disrupted. The rise in fuel prices and cost of living has forced many companies to cancel contracts.
- SCC Unveils First of their EV Fleet - The first delivery of 16 electric vehicles (EVs) will be in November, as the council begins its program to upgrade all existing pool cars. This is part of the council’s work to deliver on its climate emergency declaration, and ambition to protect and enhance the environment. The Renault Zoe has been chosen as the first of the new vehicles, with 10 MG ZS to arrive in April 2023. The aim is to completely electrify the fleet by 2024.
- EV Charging – Expression of Interests - SCC have been successful in a bid for funding towards new EV charging infrastructure. The £2.75m funding will focus on community-owned carparks, where charging can be accessed 24/7. If you wish to express interest and make the Council aware of your area, please contact Peter Frost, Environment Strategy Officer - peter.frost2@suffolk.gov.uk
- Lineage – New Green Footpath - I have agreed the costing for the work to be funded from my local highways budget.
- Overgrown Hedge Norton Road - this is being looked at the ownership to get cut back.
- Speed Limit Repeater Sign on Meadow Lane – I am afraid this cannot be found and will not be replaced. I have asked if I can buy one out of the LHB fund.
- Thurston Rail Crossing / Network Rail - meeting on 13th to discuss CIL funding and next steps
- Library- along with other libraries in Suffolk Thurston library will become a “WARM PLACE”. At the friends meeting we were told that hot drinks will be available and space for people to sit.

- I was pleased to again present the awards for the reading challenge. Even more children had taken part this year.

Appendix D -

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

- The death of Her Majesty the Queen - Thank you to all our towns and parishes who helped residents to pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen and send condolences to the Royal family. We recognise the effort behind the scenes in supporting our communities across our districts. Thanks in particular to our Town Council colleagues, who had the additional responsibility of staging the local proclamations of the reign of King Charles III.
[Condolences to the Royal family from our councils](#)
[More information on the historic proclamations that took place across our districts](#)
- Councils set out parking strategy for the next 20 years - Supporting the needs of local trade and residents, while putting the brakes on climate change – Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have set out their plans for improved parking provision for the next 20 years. [More information](#)
- Bird flu outbreak - Information on the recent bird flu outbreak in Suffolk. [More information](#)
- Latest CIL funding sees thousands ploughed back into communities - More than £420,000 in developer contributions is to be ploughed back into communities – funding a study into Thurston railway station and improved play equipment and bus facilities for villages. [More information](#)
- A chance to stand for what you believe in - Residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being encouraged to consider adding their name to the ballot and stand as a district councillor next May. [More information](#)
- What's Next for Stowmarket? - Almost 350 residents, businesses and community groups attended the John Peel Centre for our public exhibition to find out more about major projects underway in Stowmarket. The event was coordinated by the Stowmarket Vision Group which includes Mid Suffolk District Council, alongside partners including Stowmarket Town Council, the John Peel Centre, Old Fox Yard, the National Food Museum and others. [Find out more about the projects.](#)
- Households urged to get Food Savvy and plan ahead to save money and avoid waste - As the cost of living continues to bite a new campaign has been launched in Suffolk to help families reduce food waste and save money. [More information](#)

District Cllr. Austin Davies' Report to Full Council –

- There was no MSDC Meeting in September because of the passing of Queen Elizabeth II.
- Our innovations awards competition entries closing date has been extended to the 14th September.
- Planning -
 - 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.
 - Participated in the DC/22/ 00398 discussions and confirmed the need to have this applications called – in. Follow up meeting postponed.
- Ben Wragge 33 acres - Held a site visit with Roger Smith and our bio diversity officer to the 33 acres to advise on the protection of the existing trees and future enhancement to protect the neighbouring properties. Investigated the s106 funding for neighbouring cycleways. Established

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contact with the appropriate members of West Suffolk District Council to explore ways of progressing the funding of this project.

- Cost of living crisis - A full council tax reduction scheme for the worst-off households could be introduced in Babergh and Mid Suffolk next year. Cabinet councillors on the two district councils will next week choose from four options for the introduction of working age council tax reduction schemes to put to residents in a public consultation.
- Environmental/biodiversity news - We are pleased to be able to share our Tree Canopy Survey information with you. Full details on the survey, including maps showing details by ward, can be found via this link: [Tree planting strategy » Babergh Mid Suffolk](#). This information is the first step in developing a tree planting strategy for the district, which will allow us to best focus new planting in locations that deliver the greatest environmental benefits. Knowing what level of tree cover you have and where it is may help you to understand what increase is needed and identify opportunities for new planting to help deliver this. Please take a look at the survey, in particular the information for your area. Our ambition is to increase in tree canopy cover across the district, as we are currently below the national average. We are looking at opportunities for new tree planting on council land, and also providing free trees and hedging for public land outside our ownership via the following scheme: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/environment/planting-schemes/trees-hedgerows-and-wildflowers-scheme/>. Details of this scheme have been sent to you earlier this year. Though an initial deadline was set for 31st August to allow us to secure stock for this autumn, we are happy to continue receiving applications and will endeavour to provide trees where suitable for this planting season. Please do not think that as the deadline has passed, it is not too late.