

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
- Highways: I’m pleased to hear white lines are now in place. I have been in touch with Highways again to sort out the issues at Old Norton road and Ixworth road.
- Ben Wragge Skate Park Project: I attended the meeting with members from West Suffolk parishes which was very positive. We are asking Mid Suffolk if there would be CIL funding available.
- Meeting with Network Rail: what can I say! I think it was obvious from my reaction there I was very very disappointed in the progress ; there is YET ANOTHER project officer. It has been agreed to have monthly update meetings.
- Full Council Dec 1st – Motion Submitted:
 - Full Council met on 1st December. Our Group has submitted a motion calling for an improved Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP). This Spring, SCC were notified by Government that it would be receiving zero funding from their Bus Back Better bid. The Department for Transport stated the bid was not ambitious enough.
 - Our motion looks to prioritise Demand-Responsive & Community Transport for Suffolk rural communities, as well as requesting the Council to provide recommendations to improve the Council’s BSIP for the next wave of funding.
 - I also attended at meeting of other parish council in Woolpit to see what could be done to improve bus services in the area. We are getting a survey of just what the need is.
- Cabinet 8th November:
 - The Cabinet met to discuss the Q2 forecasts of the Council’s budget. Currently, there is a worry as they have reported a £12.2m budget gap – largely due to inflation and energy prices. The Council will use Reserves to cover this cost. However, this cannot be a long-term solution. Our Group are concerned that the Council will not be fully funded by this Government to deliver the same services to residents.
 - The Cabinet also met to agree a new road enforcement scheme, and to apply for new Government powers to penalise drivers who commit offences affecting buses. The trial for the scheme has selected four sites in Ipswich for a cost of over £200,000. Our Group believes this money could’ve been spent more appropriately on bus priority measures, new bus lanes, and maintaining rural services.
- Suffolk County Deal – Update:
 - As part of the government’s Levelling-up Strategy, Suffolk CC are currently negotiating a deal for more devolved powers. It was announced this month in the Chancellor’s Autumn Statement that Suffolk will look to install a directly elected leader, known as a Mayor.
 - Our Group were told by the Conservatives that this wouldn’t happen, however it appears to be a part of the deal for more powers to be devolved to county council. There are potential issues with the new mayoral role, as a Mayor can be elected from outside the majority party and has the power to select a Cabinet that is also outside of the majority – which could create a gridlocked political system.
- Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan – Update:
 - The Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Group met to update leaders on the progress of the county’s action plan to achieve net zero by 2030. A new Suffolk Climate Emergency Dashboard has been set up to display the latest data and performance measures, as well as other action such as a successful communications campaign, additional match funding, homeowner support services, and a Net Zero knowledge hub to educate businesses.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 02.12.2022

- Next steps include investments in EV charging infrastructure and developing a community energy sector. The Leaders Group agreed to release £923,458 of previously allocated funding to further implement actions. The next review will be in Spring 2023.
- WISHING YOU ALL AND YOUR PARISH A VERY HAPPY CHRISTMAS AND 2023

Appendix D -

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

- Council achievements highlighted in new reports - Millions of pounds of investment, action to combat climate change, and support for thousands of residents and businesses are amongst the achievements captured in two reports published last month. Titled '*What have we done for you?*', the reports outline the impact of work carried out by Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council since the district council elections in 2019. [More information.](#)
- Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils call for the abuse of councillors to end - The abuse and intimidation of councillors must end – that's the call from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils amid rising concerns about toxicity in public and political discourse. [More information](#)
- Shop Local for the 12 days of Christmas to boost the local economy - People are urged to get behind brilliant small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk this Christmas, with figures showing the huge impact you can have by shopping locally. [More information](#)
- Waste collection schedule for the Christmas and New Year period - Christmas and New Year waste collections schedules are now available on our website. Collections will take place as normal up to, and including Friday 23 December, then from Monday 26 Decembers to Saturday 14 January, refuse and recycling collections will be on an amended schedule. [More information.](#)
- Severe Weather Emergency Protocol activated to support anyone sleeping rough in the districts - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils has its Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP) last month, due to the severe weather. [More information](#)
- Opportunity for greater tenant engagement - Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils have approved a new [Tenant Engagement Strategy](#) which will give tenants more opportunity to be involved in decisions about their homes. [More information](#)
- Measures agreed to protect districts' waterways - Councillors at both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils voted unanimously last month to support measures to protect local rivers and waterways. [More information](#)
- More than £1.7million for secondary school expansion leads latest round of CIL funding - The expansion of Thurston Community College is among the projects benefitting from home developer contributions across Mid Suffolk and Babergh, after councillors approved the latest round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bids. [More information](#)
- CIL parish briefings -Town and Parish representatives are invited to join district councillors for one of a series of Community Infrastructure Levy briefing sessions during December.

The virtual sessions will cover the following topics:

- CIL collection – the types of developments that generate CIL
 - what constitutes a site commencement
 - how Neighbourhood CIL can be spent
 - what has been funded through District CIL funding
 - building a project funding package through CIL and external sources
 - outstanding CIL and debt recovery
- Suffolk Public Sector Leaders pledge another £913,000 to tackle climate emergency - Suffolk's ambition to be net-zero by 2030 has been bolstered by an almost £1million pledge for more

initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and tackle the effects of climate change. [More information](#)

- Online climate change awareness course launches for Suffolk - A free, online course has been launched to coincide with COP27 to support individuals and businesses to learn about the impacts of climate change in Suffolk. [More information](#)
- Councillors recognise Unsung Hero at Active Suffolk Awards - Cllrs Mary McLaren and Julie Flatman were honoured to present the Unsung Hero Award at the Active Suffolk Awards last month. [More information](#)
- Stowmarket residents have their say on town's wayfinding - Residents, business owners and community groups came together to share their views on the vision for Stowmarket last month. [More information](#)
- Local residents invited to help shape plans for Elmswell's exemplar housing development - Elmswell residents were invited to a special drop-in session organised by Mid Suffolk District Council last month to find out more about proposals for an exemplar eco-friendly housing development and help shape future plans for the site. [More information](#)

District Cllr. Austin Davies' Report to Full Council –

- MSDC Meeting (November:
 - The administration submitted no papers to this meeting. In was a short one. Our joint party motion was passed asking for Anglia Water is reduce the levels of sewage discharge into our local water courses. It also asked our Planning Dept to ensure that future develops also took account of this factor. Our Green Party pushed for clarification on the recently announced in Parliament devolution plans for Suffolk.
- Planning
 - Worked with Thurston Parish Council on their case for the Bloor Homes Supreme court case.
 - Continuing to push implementation of 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.
 - Ben Wragge 33 acres - Helped prepare the case ahead of the Jo Churchill round table meeting. Working with our Officers have agreed a process whereby MDSC Community Infrastructure Levy monies can be used to support this project. Neighbouring residents feedback/meeting planned with their views to be given to the project team.
- Highways (Suffolk CC)
 - Confirmed the level of 'S106' being paid to Suffolk CC (from public records) by the various developers for highway related improvements is at least £900,000 in Thurston. Of the various tasks only those around the new primary school and the Ixworth Road cycleway have been 'actioned'. Safe pedestrian crossing points by Thurston Community College and additional car parking have not been carried out. The safety off both our youngster and parents from across the ward are continuing to be put at risk. Urgent action is sort.
- Community Infrastructure Levy
 - An update was given by Network Rail on the project to increase the safety of Thurston's platforms.
- Locality Fund
 - Welcomed and supported a request from Stowlangtoft Parish Council for additional speed safety measures