

Appendix C – County Cllr. Penny Otton’s Report to Full Council –

- Cost of Living help and advice:
<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>
- Benefits advice and support:
<https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0> F
- Remembering Caroline Page - A silence was held at the beginning of the Council meeting on Thursday 13 July to honour Councillor Caroline Page, a much-respected member of our group and a passionate campaigner for woman, for her division of Woodbridge and the sewage into rivers.
- Motion denied on safer speeds on Suffolk roads - At Council on Thursday 13 July, my group proposed a motion for lowering speed limits on rural roads where the safe speed is clearly lower than the current National Speed Limit. The motion suggested that on these roads, a lower speed limit than 60mph would encourage many drivers to slow to a more appropriate, safer speed, thereby reducing accidents and making roads safer for all users. This motion was voted down by the SCC administration without debate.
- Motion passed on upholding minimum parking standards - The Council meeting on 13 July also discussed a motion proposed by the SCC administration to uphold minimum parking standards in new developments in the county. This motion was passed by the council, although our group observed that it was difficult for Highways planning officers to object to development plans unless the impact of the plans could show to be severe. It was agreed that the council had a real opportunity to shape plans for local communities by making sure residents’ concerns were taken into account when in consultation with developers.
- Annual Safeguarding Reports - At Cabinet on 11 July, annual reports were tabled on safeguarding adults and children in the county, Some of the issues raised included mental health of children and young people, and for adults, self neglect and hoarding. If you have concerns about the safety of a child, young person or adult, you can make a safeguarding referral by contacting Suffolk County Council’s Customer First on 0808 800 4005 or by emailing customer.first@suffolk.gov.uk
- Corporate Parenting Board Annual Report and Children in Care Council - The annual report assesses how well the council is doing in this role. The Cabinet also received a report from the Children in Care council (C2C and Brighter Futures) who outlined the work they had been undertaking during the year, including interviewing applicants for CYP social care roles, campaigning for ‘Care Experienced’ to be a Protected Characteristic, and the Watch Your Words campaign to change some of the language used by practitioners around care experienced young people.
- Suffolk Libraries - Suffolk County Council’s contract with Suffolk’s Libraries ends on 31 July 2024 and a number of options were put forward at Cabinet on 13 June about how the libraries service in Suffolk should be run after this date. It was agreed that there should be a 10-month extension to the current contract to allow for extensive consultation with people of Suffolk and a competitive tender process to be carried out, which is essential for a contract of this size. The public consultation period will be for 14 weeks from October 2023 to January 2024 and we would encourage everyone to have their say on what they think libraries and libraries outreach should look like in the county.
- Thurston Primary School - I am pleased that having contacted SCC some extra funding has been agreed.
- Future of Thurston Community College - I was a little disturbed to find out that there had been a meeting with the department for education . I have now been given notes from that and have sent onto you.
- Fishwick Corner: I know we all agree this cannot continue to cause so many accidents. I have asked that the proposed work be forced to take place asap and would assist with anything which would help to stop more accidents, including having an ACCIDENT BLACKSPOT sign.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 02.08.2023

- Ixworth Road: Persimmon are now saying they are doing an “interim post construction road safety audit . I have not yet had that report which seems to me to be delaying tactics?
- A14 / Junction 46 Changes to signage: as a result the a14 there will be closed overnight on August 7th with temporary traffic lights on Thurston road Beyton to allow a temporary hatched area be installed. East bound traffic will be diverted to exit 47 and west bound to junction 46
- Dental Services in the County - Health Scrutiny Committee met on 12 July to look at dental services in the county, amid news reports that 9 in 10 dental practices in the UK were not accepting new NHS patients. NHS Integrated Care Boards (ICBs) in the county have been working with providers to improve services, aiming to ensure that 10% of dental work undertaken is urgent dental work. There are also plans to develop a brand-new Centre for Dental Development at the University of Suffolk in Ipswich which will train new dentists and dental nurses to improve numbers of practitioners.

Appendix D - District Cllr's Report to Full Council – Cllrs. David Bradbury and Austin Davies

- MSDC Meeting - Mid Suffolk District Council held its July meeting in Elmswell at the Blackbourne Community Centre. A motion asking the Government to think again about the overland route of renewable energy from Norwich to Tilbury was passed. Reduction position of greenhouse gases by Mid Suffolk District Council was presented. Our Chief Executive reported on the conduct of the May elections and outlined the plan to ensure that the errors did not occur again.
- CIFCO - During the Directors meeting the 21 commercial real estate properties were revalued at £82 million down 12% from £94 million. Rental income remains strong, however, higher interest rates are like to reduce the net income to £1 million.
- Planning - MSDC lost the appeal DC/19/02090 (Gladman) for 210 homes to the North of Ixworth Road, Thurston, however, this developer will fund active traffic lights at the Bunbury Arms crossing, install two ‘Tiger’ crossing points on Norton Road by the Thurston Community College and an area for skate park/pods. MSDC planning Committee passed the requested uplift in 61 homes on phase 3 of the Linden Homes (Cavendish View) development in Thurston. These homes will have heat pumps and provision for solar panels.
- S106 applications - Supported Norton Village Halls application.
- Gatehouse/Citizen's Advice Bureau - Worked with Gatehouse/CAB and Thurston Parish Council to set up a system of the provision of food parcels for those that are eligible. Please encourage families in need to contact either Gatehouse in Bury St Edmunds or CAB in Stowmarket.
- Community Access to Thurston Community College Assets - Attended the open evening with a tour of the fitness suite. Match funding is available for the recruitment of the person to manage these assets out of school hours with a membership scheme for residents being proposed.
- Community Voice meeting - Support for improvements to Railway station. Strong wishes for clarity on the potential rebuilding of Thurston Community College and its impact on Beyton 6th Form.
- Autumn Tree/hedge planting - Can you please consult with your communities on potential areas for tree/hedge planting and then contact us with the details.
- Locality grants - David has received applications from the ‘Pickle ball club.

Mid Suffolk District Council – Town and Parish Update – August 2023

Pride in Your Place - Launching this month, the *Pride in Your Place* campaign will give every town and village in Mid Suffolk the opportunity to apply for funding to be used for initiatives like litter picking, sign cleaning, graffiti removal, and enhancing open public spaces. Designed to complement work already carried out by the council, the campaign is part of Mid Suffolk's commitment to creating great and attractive communities. Look out for more information soon.

Council leader seeks Government clarity on solar farms - The leader of Mid Suffolk District Council has called on the Government to provide a clear national framework for the development of solar farms. [More information](#)

Councils reiterate objections to pylon proposals - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have written to the Government restating their objections to plans for more pylons in the Suffolk countryside. [More information](#) and [see the letter from Chair Cllr Rowland Warboys here](#).

The Range pre-sale at Gateway 14 named 'Deal of the Year' - Gateway 14 Ltd (wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council) and development partner, Jaynic, scooped the 'Deal of the Year Award' at the recent UK Property Forums' Eastern Echo Awards. [More information](#)

You're not alone: Support available as more people seek cost of living help - Find out what help you are entitled to – that is the message from the district councils and Citizens Advice, as residents and families continue to deal with the high cost of living. [More information](#)

Helping residents to make their homes warmer and more energy efficient - Warm Homes Suffolk is now accepting applications to fund improvements to houses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk – making them warmer this winter and saving residents money on their energy bills. [More information](#)

Activities to support families over the summer holidays - A mixture of activities are available over the summer holidays to provide entertainment and support to families in Babergh and Mid Suffolk as part of the councils' commitment to health and wellbeing. [More information](#)

Babergh & Mid Suffolk programme funds first business innovation projects with Essex researchers - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, in partnership with the University of Essex, have funded four business innovation projects through the unique Innovate to Elevate programme. [More information](#)

Annual canvass underway - Our annual canvass of electors 2023 is underway - ensuring everyone eligible to vote across our districts can have their say in any forthcoming elections or referendums. We are required by law to carry out an annual canvass to ensure we maintain an up-to-date electoral register, meaning we must contact every residential property within Babergh and Mid Suffolk. We started contacting residents by email during July, with most households preferring to update or confirm their details online. Those who do not respond online will need to return paper annual canvass forms instead, to be sent out during August. We have included information [on our website](#), on social media, and alerted ward councillors, but would also appreciate your support in offering reassurance to residents if required. [More information](#).

Residents' survey - Our residents' survey also got underway during July. We ask around 16,000 people across our districts about a range of subjects - giving us valuable insight to help up shape our future priorities and improve our services. We ask residents for their views on subjects including the local area and facilities, public services, communities, getting around, internet access and wellbeing. Only those residents who have received an invitation can participate, to ensure we have a representative mix of people.

- Up to three adults in each household that receives an invitation can take part.
- The first invitation letters went out on 21 July, 2023, asking people to complete the survey online.

- If it is not completed online, a follow-up paper version of the survey will be sent on 25 August, 2023.
- The consultation period ends on 1 October, with results due on 15 November.

Again, we would be grateful for your support reassuring residents and encouraging them to give their views. [More information](#).

Elections Review - Earlier this month, chief executive and returning officer Arthur Charvonia wrote to all towns and parishes sharing the outcome of a review of issues experienced during the district, town and parish elections earlier this year. A report by the Chief Executive of the Association of Electoral Administrators, in consultation with the Electoral Commission, and the outcome of an extended internal 'wash up' review of the elections were shared ahead of being published and discussed during this month's district council meetings. The external report confirms that the district, town and parish elections were safely and securely delivered; and that there were no inherent failings in our elections process. The review also notes the issues were resolved efficiently and effectively, and that there were many mitigating issues unlikely to arise again. It is, however, a priority for us that everyone can have complete confidence in our election processes and we are now developing a detailed action plan to address all issues identified by this external and our own internal report. This draft action plan will be brought to our Joint Audit & Standards Committee to consider later this summer.

Hybrid meeting option for Planning Committee - We are now able to offer a hybrid meeting facility for some of our planning committee meetings – meaning public speakers, including town and parish representatives, objectors and supporters, have the option to participate in the meetings via Microsoft Teams rather than attending in person. The hybrid option will only be available for meetings which are held in the Council Chamber, due to technology requirements. The agenda for each meeting will include details of the location for the meeting, and whether speakers are able to join virtually. People attending virtually will do so through Microsoft Teams and will be required to inform the Committees Team at least 24 hours before the meeting that they wish to attend virtually to enable the team to put arrangements in place. Full details will be emailed to attendees joining virtually once they have registered. Members of the Committee, presenting officers, the planning lawyer and the governance officer will still be required to attend in person to ensure that should there be any technical issues the meeting can still proceed. Should you have any queries, please [contact our Committee Services team](#).