

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
- Revision of Suffolk County Council’s Energy Infrastructure Policy - The decision to adopt the Energy Infrastructure Policy by the Cabinet in February 2021 required that a review of the Policy was undertaken after two years, and this was discussed at Cabinet on 16 May. The following changes were proposed: to expand the scope of the policy to cover water resource infrastructure, including, but not limited to reservoirs, pipelines, and desalination plants, and to make modifications to the policy wording to ensure that it is up to date and robust. The policy was also renamed the Energy and Climate Adaptive Infrastructure Policy.

Water Resources East stated, with the launch of their regional plan consultation in November 2022, that, “Unless action is taken, increasing water scarcity will constrain agricultural production and curtail economic and housing development, impacting the region’s future prosperity and endangering the east’s iconic chalk rivers, peatlands and wetlands”.

The emerging issues of water stress are illustrated by the proposal, in Essex & Suffolk Water’s Water Resource Management Plan (WRMP) 2024 consultation, for a moratorium on mains connections for new non-domestic supply until 2032, in the Hartismere Water Resource Zone (WRZ).

The Council has supported innovation and adaptation, having worked closely with the Environment Agency, the University of East Anglia, and Felixstowe Hydrocycle, to construct and run demonstration sites for the use of alternative water resources. Demonstration sites include a system for the storage and distribution of storm water, and a pilot installation for managed aquifer recharge near Felixstowe.

- Procurement of Street Lighting Services - The current Highways Services Contract with Kier Integrated Services Limited, which includes provision for Street Lighting Services, comes to an end on 30 September 2023, having been extended to its full 10-year term. The Cabinet report for 16 May set out the process and timeline for the new procurement, with reference to the Scrutiny Committee report ‘The Procurement of a new Highways Services Contract’ from 15 February 2022, which set out lessons learned from the last procurement and how these would be incorporated in the procurement process and new contract to ensure a more rigorous procurement and selection process, and delivery of high quality and sustainable street lighting services for the county. Final tender submissions are due to be received on 19 May 2023 and will be evaluated and scored during the following two weeks with a view to awarding the new contract in June 2023.
- Supporting Suffolk Residents to Access Benefits - Feedback from VCSE organisations shows that many people are not benefiting from the support they are eligible for. Whilst recognising the good work done by council officers and the voluntary sector to support those in need as cost-of-living pressures continue. My group proposed a motion to put in place an additional programme of communication, to improve the take up of benefits and support available.
According to a recent Financial Times article, an estimated seven million people nationally are not accessing benefits they are entitled to claim, with around £15bn of unclaimed support. Many Suffolk residents may be unaware that they are eligible for a carers allowance, or attendance allowance, and may need signposting or support with the application forms for these benefits. This motion was passed by the Council at the Annual General Meeting on 25 May.
- Suffolk County Council receives £7.8m for Active Travel Schemes - The government’s scheme Active Travel England aims to boost local economies and transform the school run for thousands of children, generating up to 16 million extra walking and cycling trips a year across the country. The council received £7.8m from the government which it will spend on seven projects around the

county, encouraging cycling and walking via cycle lanes, shared use paths and improved road crossings. There will be a period of consultation with Suffolk residents during 2023, with work starting on all schemes in 2024. However most of the proposals are in the more urban areas.

- Investment of £10m announced for potholes on minor roads - The Council confirmed that £10m would be set aside to be spent over the next 20 months on the surfaces of smaller, local roads where people live, in partnership with Milestone, the new highways contractor.
- Highways/A14 Traffic - I have asked if you can have NOT SUITABLE FOR HGV SIGNS, also contacted Highways England who are responsible for the work on A14.
- Persimmon / College Park - having sent details and photos to Director of highways he has said they are trying to work with the developer but if nothing happens they will take legal actions

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

- MSDC Meeting – First of this administration was on the 22nd May - Mid Suffolk District Council welcomed the newly elected Councillors. Rowland Warboys was elected Chairman and Councillor Andy Mellen as leader. A six-member cabinet has been announced. Elections to all the appropriate MSDC posts was carried out. Presentation of long service awards was made following this meeting. A wide range of Councillor training is being delivered.
- Gateway 14 – Building of the 'Range' warehouse is progressing with the metal framework now being sheeted up.
- Planning –
 - DC/19/02090 Gladman have taken this case to a public appealed. The hearing is set for July 4 in Elmwell (no venue was available locally).
 - Linden Homes Phase 3 application increases the number of homes granted under outline planning of 200 to a total of 261. We both support Thurston Parish Council's objection to this application.
 - Asking for call in on application DC/23/02430 Barrells Road.
- Holiday activities - Half term holiday activities were supplied at our MSDC leisure centres such as swimming.
- District CIL - Have checked with MSDC CIL team and we are currently holding funds for Tostock and Thurston villages. Officers confirmed that Norton Village Hall are applying for funding. David/Austin will support the application. Thurston rail feasibility study is progressing slowly, however, network rail have identified persons who are working on the topic.
- Community Grants - Details on how Norton Pre School can apply for a community grants were supplied.
- Locality grants - David and Austin welcome requests from our community groups for targeted support for their activities.

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

- Mid Suffolk's new leader outlines initial priorities - Mid Suffolk District Council's new leader has outlined the priorities for the new administration – refocusing the council's work in a "greener and more sustainable direction" whilst tackling community issues. [More information](#)
- The results are in: Local Elections 2023 - There are new political landscapes for both Mid Suffolk District Council and Babergh District Council following the local elections. [More information](#)
- Thousands raised by former Mid Suffolk Chairman for children's charity - Former Mid Suffolk District Council Chairman, Cllr James Caston presented a cheque of £4,400 to Stowmarket ASD Saturday Clubs. [More information](#)

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 07.06.2023

- Congratulations to Their Majesties on Coronation Day - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils Chairs sent congratulations on behalf of the districts to Their Majesties King Charles III and Queen Camilla on their coronation. [More information](#)
- More than £500,000 goes back to communities in latest round of CIL funding - Money collected from developers in Mid Suffolk and Babergh is going back to the communities in our districts after councillors approved the latest round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bids. [More information](#)
- Help for families during school holidays - Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils staged a range of activities to keep children and young people safe and active during half term and Easter holidays – also tackling holiday hunger. [More information about half term activities](#) and [Easter activities](#)
- Making even more homes energy efficient - Over the next three years, more Suffolk homes will be upgraded to improve their energy efficiency, helping to reduce residents’ energy bills. [More information](#)
- Residents urged to #ShakeItOut and keep recycling clean, dry and loose - A campaign encouraging people in Suffolk to shake out their plastic bags and not to put them in their recycling bins is underway. [More information](#)
- Suffolk backs national campaign to tackle food waste - Suffolk Waste Partnership (SWP), which includes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, is backing a national campaign highlighting the problem of food waste and encouraging people to do something about it. [More information](#)
- Free compost and cheap bins to help green fingered residents - Successful initiatives to help residents get composting, as part of International Compost Awareness Week. [More information](#)
- Stowmarket opens a window of opportunity - Stowmarket’s high street could become a showcase for artists and creatives this summer with the launch of a pilot project to revitalise an empty shop window in the town. [More information](#)
- Contractor appointed for 5a Cross Street, Eye - Plans to transform 5a Cross Street, Eye, are underway following the appointment of Colnesett Ltd. [More information](#)
- Planning application submitted for Stowmarket sport, health & wellbeing, education, and leisure facilities - A full planning application for new Stowmarket sport, health & wellbeing, education, and leisure facilities has been submitted to Mid Suffolk District Council. [More information](#)
- Schoolchildren and those living with dementia share memories - A project building empathy and understanding about dementia has come to a Mid Suffolk care home, with a local school visiting to hear about residents’ lives and experiences. [More information](#)
- Former school transformed into much needed homes - Keys to 41 new affordable homes were handed over to Mid Suffolk District Council following the final stage of the transformation of the former Needham Market Middle School. [More information](#)
- Plans for Skills and Innovation Centre at Gateway 14 unveiled - Local businesses, students and workers could all benefit from modern, collaborative working and learning spaces at Gateway 14, following the approval of an initial business case. [More information](#)
- State-of-the-art emergency services hub opens in Stowmarket - A new police and fire station off Needham Road, Stowmarket, has opened, following a £431K contribution from Mid Suffolk District Council through the Community Infrastructure Levy. [More information](#)
- 25 BY 25: Suffolk’s challenge to businesses to tackle the climate emergency - The launch of the [‘25 by 25’](#) campaign sees Suffolk businesses urged to pledge a 25% reduction in their carbon emissions by 2025. [More information](#)
- Bin lorry naming competition winners get behind the wheel of Ed Sheerbin - Babergh and Mid Suffolk’s bin lorry naming competition winners enjoyed the chance to get behind the wheel of ‘Ed Sheerbin’ and ‘Binnie the Pooh’. [More information](#)