

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils - August 2021

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To: All BDC Members

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



August 2021

Dear councillor,

As you know, you are currently receiving regular updates on our response to Covid-19 in our districts and **we suggest that you review the most recent update to see the most up-to-date situation** in terms of our support for local businesses, communities and impact on our services ahead of your town or parish meetings.

You have continued to receive all media releases as they are issued and can also [see them on our website](#), but to assist you in giving your towns or parishes a rundown of activity during July, we include all recent announcements below:

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

Regular bulletins continue to be produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through existing fortnightly updates for councillors, or [via the Suffolk County Council website](#).

An update on the vaccine rollout can be found on the [SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website](#).

We continue to play our part in response to the pandemic, alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum, supporting in the event of local outbreaks as well as continuing to offer support to our communities and businesses. Please see the council website for more information.

Welcome Back Fund

We have now written to all town and parish councils in Babergh who are eligible to apply for a share of the Welcome Back Fund. Completed request forms should be returned to us as soon as possible to ensure that communities do not miss out on this important funding opportunity.

In order to distribute the funding fairly, we have offered a selection of items to help each town and parish create a welcoming and safe environment for local trade and tourism as we exit the coronavirus restrictions.

The Welcome Back Fund is also supporting a range of events in our key towns, such as Green Sundays in Sudbury offering fun eco-friendly activities and workshops, as well as craft fairs and walking trails in Sudbury and Hadleigh.

Innovate Local scheme launched for businesses

Start-up businesses in Babergh are being invited to take part in Innovate Local, a pilot scheme designed to help businesses grow and reach new audiences following the impact of Covid-19.

[Find out more](#)

Babergh District Council lends support to Thank You Day

The leader of Babergh District Council has thanked workers in the district for their incredible response to the pandemic.

[Find out more](#)

Help Suffolk say thanks

We are fortunate to have an incredible volunteer network in Babergh, with many of our residents having gone the extra mile during the past 16 months.

To recognise their efforts, we will be distributing [Suffolk Says Thanks](#) badges over the coming months. If you know of anyone in your community who you think deserves a badge, please [email our communities team](#), who can arrange for this to be sent out.

Local council housing officers recognised nationally as 'community heroes'

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' housing officers are in the running for a prestigious national award, for their work in keeping

vulnerable residents off the streets during the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Find out more](#)

Developing a 'joined-up' strategy for parking in our districts

This week, Babergh and Mid Suffolk cabinets approved work starting on the formulation of a parking strategy for both districts. The joint strategy will look at all elements of parking – including everything from on-street and off-street parking, through to the economic, environmental and community impacts – to ensure that shoppers, tourists, visitors, residents, workers and commuters, have access to sufficient, good quality, safe, welcoming parking opportunities.

The parking strategy, due to be approved by September 2022, will look at our districts' needs over the next five to ten years – including aspects such as housing growth, business and tourism, as well as environmental and wellbeing factors.

The development of the strategy will, of course, involve consultation with our town and parish councils, residents and businesses, as well as other local authorities, plus a range of organisations including disability forums, emergency services and hospitals, transport operators, voluntary and community groups, Chambers of Commerce and local town vision groups. Look out for further information over coming weeks.

[Find out more](#)

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2021 Annual Canvass now underway

The annual canvass process is now underway and we are asking residents to check their details on the electoral register are up to date to ensure they do not lose their right to vote. To help streamline the process we are encouraging this to be done electronically and continue to provide reassurance that annual canvass emails from us are genuine.

[Find out more](#)

Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses

Businesses and community organisations are being urged to tackle climate change by joining Suffolk's first ever showcase event celebrating sustainability and green energy.

[Find out more](#)

Finishing touches at Hadleigh pool ensure healthy futures for generations

A new swimming pool in Hadleigh reached its final milestone, after it was officially opened last month following final finishing touches to the building.

[Find out more](#)

Wheels in motion for cycle race

The full route for this year's Women's Tour has been revealed, with some of the world's top cyclists racing through Babergh and Mid Suffolk once again.

[Find out more](#)

In a further announcement this week, Babergh and Mid Suffolk were announced as locations for the thrilling Sprints and challenging Queen of the Mountains climb of stage six of the Women's Tour.

[Find out more](#)

Councils actively support residents to enjoy fit and healthy futures

The refreshed Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been given the go-ahead – enabling communities to be more active and improve their health and wellbeing.

[Find out more](#)

District champions ASB Awareness Week

Babergh District Council pledged its support to last month's ASB Awareness Week – furthering the council's ongoing commitment to ensuring that its residents lead safe and happy lives.

[Find out more](#)

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Conditional planning permission granted for Cuckoo Hill

Babergh District Council recently approved retrospective planning permission for two homes on Cuckoo Hill, subject to partial demolition and modifications to address concerns raised by both the council and community.

[Find out more](#)

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Council defers decision on Skylark fields development

Details of a Long Melford development will require further consideration following Babergh's planning committee calling for more energy efficiency

measures, a better housing mix and further investigation into pedestrian safety.

[Find out more](#)

Capel St Mary planning application

A planning application has recently been submitted by Scott Properties for 519 new homes to be built at Capel Grove in Capel St Mary. This site has been allocated in our emerging Joint Local Plan, which also considers the infrastructure, such as health provisions and highways improvements, needed to accompany this growth and ensure bright and healthy futures for our communities.

To date, over 500 consultation letters have been issued by our council to neighbours and consultees and, as always, we welcome the [expression of any concerns or comments](#) on plans to help inform the planning decision process.

Town and parish councillors may also be interested in [downloading the new Parish Councillors' Guide to Rural Affordable Housing \(2021\)](#) produced by the Rural Housing Alliance.