

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

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To: All BDC Members

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



February 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 business, 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 [see them on our website here](#), but to assist you in giving your towns or parishes a rundown of activity during January, we include all recent announcements below:

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

Regular bulletins are being 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 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](#).

Additional Restrictions Grant reopens for businesses in Babergh

Business owners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being urged to explore the range of Covid-19 support grants open to support them through the current national lockdown.

[Read the full story.](#)

Babergh parking decision deferred to February cabinet meeting

Babergh District Council's Cabinet deferred making a decision in January over the future of parking provision across the district, to allow the fullest possible scrutiny and further debate. It will now be taken to the February meeting.

[Read the full story.](#)

New home for customer access point at Sudbury Library

Babergh District Council, in partnership with Suffolk Libraries, has announced its customer access point will move to Sudbury Library. The access point, co-designed by Suffolk Libraries, will provide digital support and face-to-face services.

[Read the full story.](#)

Business centre boosts councils' income

Property investment company CIFCO Capital Ltd has invested £5.7m in a Basingstoke business centre, so future rental income can be invested back into Babergh and Mid Suffolk's council services.

[Read the full story.](#)

New Year, New Homes

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have invested more than £40m buying 250 new homes for low-income house-hunters. This multi-million-pound investment in social housing will see new properties added to their existing council house stock of more than 6,000 homes, or made available to buy as shared ownership homes – helping low-income families onto the first rung of the property ladder.

[Read the full story.](#)

Garden waste collections suspended until further notice

Our garden waste (brown bin) collections have been suspended from Monday 11 January 2021 until further notice. This is to enable our crews to prioritise essential waste collections, such as the collection of refuse, recycling and clinical waste. Future invoices will be adjusted to compensate for this period of non-collection.

[Read the full story.](#)

Go ahead for emission-cutting fuel plans

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will cut their fleet's carbon emissions by up to 90% – supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims.

[Read the full story.](#)

New service to support residents to live independently and safely in their homes

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' 'Independent Living Service' has been developed to help improve the quality of life of the districts' most vulnerable adults, young people and children.

[Read the full story.](#)

Chatbot technology to support customers

We've now started our year-long pilot of chatbot and automated phone technology on our phonenumber and website. This widely used technology is there to support customers with their queries at a time to suit them, 24/7 - even when our offices are closed.

[Read the full story.](#)

Housing Delivery Test 2020

The recently published Housing Delivery Test 2020 (an annual measurement of housing delivery in the area of relevant plan-making authorities) confirms that both councils met the Government's housing delivery requirement over the past three years.

[Find out more](#)

Pledge to tackle anti-semitism

The nation recently marked Holocaust Memorial Day – and our councils have strengthened their commitment to tackling anti-semitism. Babergh Councillors agreed to support the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines, providing reassurance to the district's Jewish community that this form of crime is taken very seriously, and we will do everything in our power to tackle it.

[Read the full story.](#)

Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society

Households across Babergh and Mid Suffolk will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the Office for National Statistics the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801 (except for 1941).

[Read the full story.](#)

New recycling campaign aims to get Suffolk's recycling right

Every year, more than 10,000 tonnes (1 in 5 lorries worth) of recycling from Suffolk homes is rejected. This is due to residents placing the wrong items in their recycling bins. A new campaign 'Together we can get our recycling right' has been launched by the Suffolk Waste Partnership to tackle the problem.

[Read the full story.](#)

Vehicle banners encourage Suffolk to be food and freezer savvy

Waste and recycling vehicles in Suffolk are now displaying new artwork to help deliver the food savvy message and cut food waste across the county. Over 50,000 tonnes of food, the equivalent of around £730 per household on average, gets thrown away in Suffolk every year.

[Read the full story.](#)