

To: All BDC Members

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



January 2022

Dear councillor,

Please find below a round-up of council activity during December that we hope will assist you in providing any regular update to your towns and parishes.

As you know, you also receive regular councillor updates, as well as all media releases as they are issued. They can also be seen at any point during the month [on our website](#).

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

Thank you to everyone who has helped to support the Covid-19 response this month, which has seen the Government revert to Plan B and our NHS colleagues ramping up the vaccination rollout in a race against time to combat the spread of the Omicron variant.

We continue to use our social media channels to keep everyone informed and to share messages from our NHS and public sector partners – including information on vaccinations and boosters, FAQs and eligibility and advice for residents on protecting themselves and others.

We are ready to support our most vulnerable residents and communities through the Christmas period and beyond as case numbers continue to rise, with information on our website and across our social media channels regarding how to access help.

We also await further information from the Government regarding the further financial support for businesses announced this week, so we can distribute funds to those eligible across our districts as soon as possible.

We also continue to provide regular bulletins giving a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with case numbers and updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through Working Together, the monthly Councillor Update or [via the Suffolk County Council website](#).

Babergh and Mid Suffolk leaders offer thanks and urge residents to get boosted now

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, Cllr John Ward and Cllr Suzie Morley, are amongst Suffolk public sector leaders sending a joint message to Suffolk residents. [Read the full story](#)

Free bus and taxi services across Suffolk for all those travelling for a vaccination

People in Suffolk can today take advantage of free bus and taxi rides to get to their vaccination appointment or to a vaccine drop-in clinic. [Read the full story](#)

Help is at hand this Christmas

Suffolk residents can still seek support over the festive period, with help available for anyone who is self-isolating, facing financial difficulties or struggling with their health and wellbeing.

This includes Home, But Not Alone, which provides assistance with obtaining groceries and medication to those unwell with Covid, or self-isolating, who cannot arrange delivery of these items themselves or don't have friends or family to help out.

Anyone in genuine need of help can call the service – staffed on weekdays between 9am and 5pm – on freephone **0800 876 6926**. It will remain open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and over the festive bank holidays for emergency calls only. [Read the full story](#)

Blueprint for districts' future development to progress

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed a decision by Planning Inspectors to allow work on their Joint Local Plan to continue – meaning the councils can ensure the right developments happen in the right places at the right time. [Read the full story](#)

Work begins on carbon-cutting solar carport schemes

Works have begun on installing solar carports which will help power and slash the carbon emissions of two council-owned leisure centres - as part of council plans to tackle climate change. [Read the full story](#)

School's Out schemes support families through the Christmas holidays

Hey Presto! Magic, circus skills, football, swimming, and outdoor cooking, are amongst the fun activities on offer from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and partners during the Christmas school holidays. [Read the full story](#)

Scheme to support new small businesses marks successful six months

A pilot scheme to support small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been hailed a success as it reaches its six-month milestone. [Read the full story](#)

Councils urge National Highways to 'unblock Copdock'

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have submitted a joint response to [a consultation by National Highways on proposed improvements to the Copdock Interchange](#) – urging the creation of a new link road to keep business traffic flowing freely. [Read the full story](#)

New medical centre for Sudbury gets green light

Councillors have given the green light to a new three-storey GP surgery and pharmacy for Sudbury, helping to futureproof healthcare for the town. [Read the full story](#)

"You must pay!" Council's warning to developers

Babergh District Council secured an out-of-court settlement of £163,590 in unpaid Community Infrastructure Levy from developers Marden Essex Ltd. [Read the full story](#)

Funding for Brooklands Primary School expansion given the go-ahead

A Community Infrastructure Levy bid from Suffolk County Council to help finance further school places in Brantham received the green light, with Babergh's cabinet approving £345,360 towards the expansion. [Read the full story](#)