

## Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils - July 2021

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To: BMSDC Communications Mailbox <communications@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk>

To: All BDC Members

### Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



**July 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 June, 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.

#### **Councils' Joint Local Plan examination to reconvene in September**

Hearing sessions for the examination of our councils' Joint Local Plan are expected to resume again in September following a change of date –

enabling them to be fully inclusive, whilst also ensuring public safety during the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is anticipated that the Stage 1 sessions, originally scheduled for June and July, will now take place over a concentrated period from September, with Stage 2 hearing sessions in mid-Autumn as originally planned.

[Find out more](#)

### **Next steps for councils' biodiversity and climate change plans agreed**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have given the go ahead for £97k for projects aimed at boosting biodiversity and tackling climate change across their districts.

[Find out more](#)

### **Local leisure centre to benefit from green initiative**

Councillors on Babergh District Council cabinet recently agreed funding for a new, more energy efficient, pool water cleaning system at Kingfisher Leisure Centre in Sudbury.

The new system is expected to reduce Kingfisher's annual carbon emissions by between 6.4 and 8.6 tonnes, and, if successful, will be considered for the three other council-owned leisure centres across both Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

[Find out more](#)

### **New 'virtual' high street supports market town's recovery**

Shopping in Hadleigh is now just a click away thanks to the launch of new Virtual High Street sites. Over 100 new businesses have signed up to new sites in Hadleigh and Stowmarket, joining over 130 already signed up to the platform in Sudbury.

[Find out more](#)

### **Joint Overview & Scrutiny Committee approves CIFCO plans for 2021/22**

Councillors on Overview & Scrutiny have approved CIFCO's annual business plan ahead of its review by Full Council, with the property investment company having now brought in more than £5.4m to help fund services and projects for residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

[Find out more](#)

### **Councils to provide financial lifeline for local projects**

Don't forget! Applications are now open for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Locality Awards funding – enabling communities to improve facilities, learn new skills and work towards becoming environmentally sustainable.

[Find out more](#)

### **Celebrations to mark Armed Forces Week**

The council proudly flew the flag for our Armed Forces last month with a range of events to show support for our service personnel.

[Find out more](#)

### **CIL funding supports future investment in Babergh**

The latest Community Infrastructure Levy round sees housing growth in Babergh fund £346,000-worth of vital improvements, including the transformation of a village hall, as well as the expansion of a local secondary school, following agreement by councillors last month.

[Find out more](#)

### **Belle Vue Park entrance on the agenda**

Plans to realise the full potential of a new entrance for Belle Vue Park, including a new café and fully accessible toilets for visitors with disabilities, are to be considered by Babergh District Council's cabinet in July.

[Find out more](#)

### **Boost for business as new workspaces agreed for Hadleigh**

Businesses in Babergh could benefit from new workspaces at a key location in Hadleigh following a decision from Babergh District Council to progress the development of 1.5 acres of allocated employment land.

[Find out more](#)

### **Changes agreed to social housing allocation system to ensure fairness and consistency**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council cabinets both recently agreed amendments to Gateway to Homechoice - the lettings system used to allocate social housing across the local authority areas of Babergh, Braintree, Colchester, East Suffolk, Ipswich, Maldon and Mid Suffolk.

The changes have been made in response to national legislative and policy changes, including a new Code of Guidance issued by the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government in December 2020, and will ensure that key decisions can be made fairly and consistently by all Gateway local authorities.

[Find out more](#)

### **Performance update**

Cabinet members for Babergh District Council recently considered the latest performance reports, highlighting the council's outstanding response to the pandemic, whilst continuing to deliver against the Corporate Plan. The full report provides an insight into what service areas have achieved over the last quarter and is available to view on the council's website.

[Find out more](#)