

To: All BDC Members

## Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



**December 2021**

Dear councillor,

Please find below a round-up of council activity during November 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 here](#).

### **An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk**

Thank you to everyone who has helped amplify public health messages within their communities over recent weeks, particularly with the recent discovery of the new Omicron variant and increased precautions as a result.

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 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](#).

In the meantime, we continue to play our part in response to the pandemic, alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum in order to support our residents and communities.

### **Babergh's commitment to its communities**

Dedicated Covid recovery, almost £5m in improved leisure facilities and a CCTV upgrade will all go towards improving the quality of life of Babergh residents, councillors heard this month. [Find out more here.](#)

### **Feedback sought on future development in districts**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have published their draft five-year housing land supply statements – outlining the anticipated supply of new homes between now and 2026. [Find out more here.](#)

### **Shop Local on the Virtual High Street this Christmas**

We're encouraging everyone to shop local this Christmas and find the perfect gift on the Virtual High Street, with a raft of discounts and offers for the festive season. [Find out more here.](#)

### **Babergh parking charges postponed**

Plans to introduce new tariffs, including an hour's free parking, in Babergh car parks from January next year, have been postponed. [Find out more here.](#)

### **Clampdown on landlords, thanks to funding boost for Suffolk councils**

Families living in privately rented cold and draughty properties in Suffolk can look forward warmer homes in future thanks to a new campaign targeting landlords who fail to meet minimum energy efficiency standards. [Find out more here.](#)

### **Thoughts invited on the future of Hadleigh Market**

Babergh District Council is asking businesses, residents and the local community to give their feedback to help shape the future of Hadleigh Market. [Find out more here.](#)

### **Improvements to Belle Vue Park welcomed by local community**

Over 250 people in Sudbury and the surrounding area contributed to Babergh District Council's public consultation about the future of Belle Vue Park held earlier this autumn. [Find out more here.](#)

### **Avian influenza (bird flu)**

The Chief Veterinary Officers for England, Scotland, Wales and Northern Ireland have agreed to bring in new measures to help protect poultry and captive birds.

The new housing measures came into force across the UK from 00:01 on Monday 29 November 2021 to protect poultry and captive birds from avian

influenza following a number of confirmed cases across Great Britain in recent weeks. [Find out more here.](#)

Please help spread the message within your local area to inform anyone who keeps birds. You may also wish to share these [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) posts by Suffolk Trading Standards on any relevant social media pages your town or parish manages.