

**Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils - December 2020**

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To: All BDC Members

**Councillors' briefing notes for  
town and parish councils****December 2020**

Dear councillor,

As you know, you are currently receiving [weekly 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 November, 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](#).

**Local coronavirus alert for Hadleigh, Suffolk**

A local alert was issued last month for Hadleigh following coronavirus outbreaks in the town's care homes and rising numbers within the community. Working with our public health and Suffolk Resilience Forum partners we continue to support settings affected by cases, as well as the wider town. [Read the initial story](#) here, with the most up-to-date information available from [Suffolk Coronawatch](#).

**New Covid-19 support grants launched**

Businesses in Babergh who have had to close their doors to customers as part of the current national lockdown may be eligible for a second wave of grant funding through the Government's Covid-19 support packages.

[Read the full story about the Local Restrictions Support Grant](#)

[Read the full story about the Additional Restrictions Grant](#)

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**Green light for councils' biodiversity vision**

Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk approved their first Biodiversity Action Plan to protect and strengthen biodiversity – supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims.

[Read the full story](#)

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**Councillors approve foundation for future growth**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils finalised their Joint Local Plan last month – paving the way for sustainable housing growth, employment opportunities, and thriving communities with bright and healthy futures.

[Read the full story](#)

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**Councils to consult on CIL charging rates**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are seeking views on revised Community Infrastructure Levy charges for developers – helping to provide communities with the facilities they need to keep pace with growth.

[Read the full story](#)

**Have your say on the future of Market Hill**

Sudbury's residents and visitors are being invited to have their say on the future of the town's central public space between 5 November and 14 December 2020.

[Read the full story](#)

**2020 Innovation Award winners announced**

The winners of the Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council Innovations Awards were announced at a virtual ceremony.

[Read the full story](#)

## **CIFCO acquires further properties to generate income for local councils**

Property investment company CIFCO Capital Ltd purchased three further properties this month totalling almost £10.5m, to bring in future income for councils to invest back into local communities.

[Read the full story](#)

## **Committee gives go-ahead for retirement village**

Detailed plans for 135 houses and a care home at Pinewood recently received the green light – providing affordable accommodation for Babergh's older residents as well as highways improvements.

[Read the full story](#)

## **Administrators appointed for Sudbury silk firm**

Administrators have been appointed to Silk Industries Limited – trading as Vanners — after difficulties exacerbated by the coronavirus crisis proved insurmountable. Of the 64-strong workforce at the company, 32 have been made redundant and the remainder kept on while a buyer is sought.

Babergh District Council cabinet member for economic growth Michael Holt said: "Vanners has been an integral part of the history and heritage of Sudbury's silk industry for many generations and the administration announcement is a significant blow to Sudbury and the district.

"Our teams are working with Vanners, the DWP and other local partners to support those employees who have been made redundant with advice on how to access financial support and other employment opportunities. We are also working with the management team to provide any support we can to identify and connect with potential buyers."

## **Sudbury set to showcase silk project**

Sudbury residents can explore more of the town's silk industry whilst out on their daily exercise – with woven panels crafted by Creative Young Weavers and the local community now on display.

[Read the full story](#)

## **Hate Crime**

With recorded hate crime on the increase nationally, we must be aware of the danger of cases within our district. Please share [this video](#) to help raise

awareness of what constitutes Hate Crime, and how this can be reported.