

To: All BDC Members

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



November 2021

Dear councillor,

Please find below a round-up of council activity during October 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

Suffolk's public health bosses have asked the Government for extra help to fight Covid amid increasing pressure on our county's hospitals and some of the highest rates of infection in the country.

The request for Suffolk to become an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) for up to five weeks is being submitted by Public Health Suffolk on behalf of public sector partners - and is intended to secure additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure. [Read the full story](#)

To help respond to queries regarding vaccinations, including boosters and jabs for 12 to 15-year-olds, our NHS partners have created a new look homepage for [their vaccination website](#) including information about all the clinics they offer, together with FAQs and eligibility criteria.

Regular bulletins continue to be produced to give 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 and continuing to offer support to our communities and businesses. Please see the council website for more.

Changes to Babergh District Council cabinet

Cllr Simon Barrett became cabinet member for finance and Cllr Sian Dawson joined as cabinet member for the environment last month, while Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi took on a new portfolio of climate change, biodiversity and sustainable transport.

Work to continue on blueprint for districts' future development

Public examination of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan – the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts - has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow the councils further time to review its evidence. [Read the full story](#)

£1.5m funding boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities

Town and Parish Councils across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received £1.5 million in neighbourhood CIL last month – paving the way for a range of vital community facilities and projects. [Read the full story](#)

First Local Energy Showcase hailed a success

With more attention than ever turning to sustainability and reducing the environmental impact of energy consumption, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils hosted business owners and community groups at their first Local Energy Showcase. [Read the full story](#)

Bumper delivery of affordable homes for Babergh

Councillors received the keys to a new social housing development in Shotley last month – just some of the 28 new affordable homes due to be completed in Babergh over coming weeks.

Eight families can now look forward to moving into the new homes at Queensland, Shotley – with three of the properties specifically allocated for families with a local parish connection. [Read the full story](#)

Tree for Life scheme welcomes applications from new parents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2021 applications.

The scheme, which benefits families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across our districts, is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31

December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree. [Read the full story](#)

Councils light the road to a greener future

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have committed to reducing streetlight intensity across their districts – protecting plant and wildlife, and reducing energy use, in line with biodiversity and climate change ambitions. [Read the full story](#)

New iPad lending scheme to help residents get online

Suffolk Libraries and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are joining forces to help residents get online with a new iPad lending scheme – supporting those who need a little extra help to access services in an increasingly digital world. [Read the full story](#)

New plans for Belle Vue improvements on display

Residents, visitors and business owners in Sudbury were invited to view outline plans for improvements to Belle Vue Park. [Read the full story](#)

Council secures environmental mitigation measures for Long Melford development

Details of a new development at Long Melford were finalised last month, with Babergh District Council ensuring that proposals offered protection for wildlife, carbon reduction initiatives and 52 affordable homes. [Read the full story](#)

Schools' out scheme supports Babergh families in need

Babergh's children continue to benefit from fun activities during the school holidays – including family park cookery sessions in Great Cornard. [Read the full story](#)

Councils mark National Homelessness Day

Preventing homelessness is a priority for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils. Everyone needs somewhere to live and a place that they can call home. [Read the full story](#)