

Appendix C – County Cllr. Penny Otton’s Report to Full Council

- COVID-19 Update - Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus
Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>
- Further opening of schools - From 1 June it is expected that school will gradually begin to reopen to more pupils, in addition to accommodating children of key workers and vulnerable pupils. The phased opening of schools will start with pupils in nurseries, reception, year one and year six. Secondary schools and other schools such as pupil referral units and special schools will also gradually increase the number of children and young people they can accommodate. For secondary schools this will start with year 10 and year 12. Suffolk County Council has been supporting schools in preparing for the possibility of increased pupil numbers and have provided all schools with a risk assessment checklist.
Important: It is not compulsory for parents to send their children to school at this time and there will be no penalties for families who choose to keep children at home.
More information is available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/parent-guidance-about-schools-during-covid-19-pandemic/>
- Testing in Suffolk - A regional testing centre for Suffolk and surrounding areas can be found at the London Road Park and Ride, Copdock, Ipswich. It is open from 8am to 7pm, every day. There are also various mobile testing units across Suffolk. In addition, home testing kits can be requested. More information on how to access a test in Suffolk is available at: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-testing-in-suffolk/>
- Changes to pavements/roads to aid social distancing - Suffolk County Council has confirmed that local councils and communities can make some small-scale temporary changes to pavements without needing to seek consent from the county council. These will be local safety measures on pavements that outline queuing areas, social distancing reminders or simple painted markings on pavement surfaces for pedestrians. However, if the activity that the community wants to carry out requires working on or in the road, then the county council will need to be contacted first. If communities are unsure of where their proposed changes fit, they are encouraged to contact the county council at: transport.schemes@suffolk.gov.uk
We have also been encouraging the county council to make more radical changes to the road layout to support cycling and walking. The Department for Transport has announced a £2bn package to boost cycling and walking capacity in the UK, and this is an opportunity for councils to tackle historic congestion problems by encouraging a change in the behaviours of their residents by giving a fairer share of road space to walkers and cyclists.
- Domestic Abuse helpline available 24/7 - The existing Domestic Abuse Outreach Service, run by Suffolk County Council and Anglia Care Trust, has extended its 0800 977 5690 freephone number to be available 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Anyone with concerns including professionals who may be supporting clients, as well as friends and families who are concerned for loved ones, can access this local support.
- EDF submits application for Sizewell C DCO - On 27 May, EDF submitted an application for a development consent order for Sizewell C to the Planning Inspectorate. I am very concerned about EDF’s decision to go ahead with an application during the current crisis, as it will be much more difficult for the public and stakeholders to fully scrutinise the plans and participate in the consultation process.
- Mill Road - I think this is a very good scheme to introduce a cycling/ walking road under the new government funding. I am happy to support this and put to the SCC officer and cabinet member.
- Ixworth Road Trees - I set up a TEAMS meeting with Wendy and the SCC ecologists on Monday which was very useful. As a result I have written to Natural England setting out the position, in case we need to go

that far. I met with the group at the site and as a result I will be at the meeting organised by Sgt. Stuart Dolan. There appears to be some amendments to the plans for taking the utilities under the paths. We need to make sure any information coming from SCC, Persimmons and MSDC are clearly disseminated to all.

- I am meeting the CEX of SCC on Tuesday and will be raising some of the issues that have been coming out about communications and highways .
- Plans for the School - this will go to the SCC planning committee, no date as yet.

Appendix D –

District Cllr. Harry Richardson’s Report to Full Council

- We’re rooting for new parents during COVID-19 and beyond - A Tree for Life scheme in Babergh and Mid Suffolk which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2020 applications allowing families to apply from home during the coronavirus outbreak. [For details of how apply, please refer to our website](#)
- New grant scheme opens for small businesses - A new Discretionary Grant is now open for businesses based in shared offices or other flexible workspaces, market traders, bed and breakfasts and small charity properties. [For details of how apply, please refer to our website](#)
- Communities benefit from Coronavirus funding boost totalling over £100,000 - Communities have received more than £100,000 in vital funding from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils – helping them to respond to Covid-19 and paving the way for a stronger society. [For details of how apply, please refer to our website](#)
- Children to explore the value of food through new competition by #FoodSavvy - Pioneering food saving campaign #FoodSavvy launched a month-long Delicious Drawings competition, on Wednesday 20 May, in collaboration with the East of England Co-op.
- Stick With It Suffolk – continue slowing the spread of coronavirus - Suffolk people are being asked to continue their great efforts, which are successfully reducing the spread of COVID-19.
- Small businesses to benefit from new innovation and growth fund - A new £300,000 funding programme for small businesses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed - with funds to be allocated over the next three years. This will provide a much-needed boost to businesses after the coronavirus crisis to help sustain and create jobs, provide opportunities to grow and innovate as well as react to the changing business landscape.
- Coronavirus cons - Unfortunately, opportunistic traders and scammers are taking advantage of the vulnerability of those panicked by COVID-19. If you'd like to help make Suffolk a safe place to live and work, register to be a Trading Standards Consumer Champion and receive a weekly email alert that provides information on scams as well as any doorstep rogues calling at properties in the local area so you can alert your neighbours or residents.

Report from District Cllr. Cllr Wendy Turner to Full Council

- Covid-19 -Staff are continuing to work from home, making use of Skype to hold virtual meetings with colleagues and residents; non-urgent site inspections are not taking place. Many officers have been seconded to different duties to help MSDC respond to the issues arising from the pandemic.
- Meetings - There have been very few meetings held, all of them virtual meetings via Skype. In May a joint MSDC and Babergh DC Cabinet meeting took place and another joint meeting is being held on 9 June. A

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 03.06.20

virtual full Council meeting is being planned for July; this will be the Annual General Meeting at which the Chair of the Council will be elected for the year and appointments to committees and outside bodies will be confirmed.

- Trees for Life - The Tree for Life scheme has been relaunched. Parents of children born or adopted during 2020 can apply for a free tree to plant in their own garden or other suitable location. It is open to all families in Mid Suffolk who welcome a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2020, in addition to parents who may have lost a child during the same period to apply for a remembrance tree. The closing date for applications is 17 January 2021.
- Emergency Needs Grants - MSDC has funds to support organisations providing help to vulnerable residents. Community groups, along with town and parish councils, are playing a key role in easing the challenges faced by residents at this time. A Covid-19 Emerging Needs Grant was set up last month, ensuring much-needed funding could be provided to new and existing groups. Grants of up to £2,500 can be applied for to cover increased costs incurred as a result of the Coronavirus. There are details on line, or contact one of us.
- Safer Shopping and Outdoor Leisure - As lockdown measures are eased, there is a need to change the way we visit businesses, shops and open spaces. MSDC is working with other councils across Suffolk to introduce measures to reduce the risk of COVID-19 spreading as more people are out and about. We have suggested measures such as partial road closures and traffic restrictions to give more space for pedestrians and encourage social distancing in shopping areas.
- Business Innovation and Growth Fund - A new £300,000 funding programme for small businesses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed - with funds to be allocated over the next three years. The aim is to help sustain and create jobs, provide opportunities to grow and innovate as well as react to the changing business landscape.
- Pop up Cycle Paths - I have Contacted various officers at MSDC to find out how we can apply to get some roads made into 'pop up' cycle/walkways during the Pandemic. This is being looked into by Penny Otton as it comes under SCC. I've had a positive response from most of the parishes within the Thurston Ward who would certainly like to see some temporary 20MPH zones put in place as well as pop up cycle routes. Highways have been given emergency powers to enable them to do this quickly but as yet no process for this is in place, they are waiting for more information from the government. We have to move quickly on this as the funds available will be on a first come first served basis.
- Mill Lane - Have asked Highways to look at closing Mill Lane, or to make it a pop up cycle lane, closing it off to vehicles other than residents when the Ixworth Road is closed. This is to stop it becoming a rat run. Highways have responded positively and are looking into it.
- Thurston Oaks - Have been liaising with both highways and Planning on how we can have safe cycle and roads and keep the Thurston Oaks, seems like there is not solution at the moment. Have been liaising with Persimmon in order to try and resolve the tree situation or at least delay it until we are sure there are no bats roosting or birds nesting. This has resulted in Persimmon employing an Ecologist to give a full report. I've also been working with local resident James Wells and between us we believe an independent Ecologist should also be employed. Various Environmental and a wildlife groups have been contacted to see if they could provide an Ecologist to do the survey. I will be contacting the Ecology Manager again at SCC to see if they can come and do an assessment.
There has also been a lot of press interest and the story has appeared in the BFP, East Anglian Daily Times and Radio Suffolk. ITV are looking at filming when Persimmon fell the trees.
A meeting will be held on 3/6/2020 at which representatives from Persimmon, Suffolk County Councillors and MSDC will be in attendance to try and get a resolution to the impasse.

Appendix C and D – Minutes of 03.06.20

- Persimmon Health and Safety - After walking past the Persimmon site I was disturbed to see no social distancing or other safety measures in place. I emailed the company who emailed back within a day and sent a full report a few days later with assurances that this situation has been investigated and that they are ensuring stringent health and safety measures are in place. If anyone notices that they are not adhering to the rules please let me know and I will inform the Health and Safety Executive as it appears there are no mechanisms at Mid Suffolk DC or SCC level to deal with this. A copy of the report has been sent to the Parish Clerk.
- The Drift DC/20/00608 - The Planning officer has written to the Agents of the above planning application to ask them to withdraw the application and if they don't he is minded to refuse it in its current form. The Agent has withdrawn the application.
- Small Business Grants - The council is able to support small businesses with grants and so far, has distributed over £32M to nearly 3000 businesses across both districts, which should be reimbursed by Government. Officers have tried to make contact with all small businesses but there are still some outstanding. More information about how to apply for a grant is available on the website. <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/business/business-rates/grant-funding-schemes/>
Both Thurston Recreation Ground and Thurston Rugby Club may be eligible if they want to apply.
Organisations eligible for business rate discounts, such as charities, village halls, rural shops and pubs have had additional help. Norton Village Hall applied and successfully received a grant of £10,000. If anyone thinks they are or know of organisations that are eligible for this please contact me if you need help, I believe it is not a difficult application form.
- Planning - Government has instructed councils to keep the planning system moving, with increased delegated decisions, but ward councillors can ask for decisions to be made by committee where they feel it is essential. No site notices will be put up by Council Officers. I have volunteered to do this job. The Planning Department will also be sending out letters to neighbours. They will also send a list of street names to me to check if they have covered what they deem to be the neighbours.
- Locality Budget - Just a reminder that I have been awarded my locality budget for 2020 and have funds available if any organisation requires funding.
- Bin collection - There is now a full bin collection service in place.