

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

- Cost of Living help and advice: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/family.page?familychannel=6>
- Benefits advice and support: <https://infolink.suffolk.gov.uk/kb5/suffolk/infolink/adult.page?adultchannel=0>
- Flood preparation advice: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/suffolk-fire-and-rescue-service/fire-and-rescue-safety-advice-in-the-community/preparing-for-flooding>
- Flood recovery advice and support: <http://www.suffolk.gov.uk/about/flood-recovery-information-for-suffolk>
- Care Market Strategy - On Tuesday 13 May, Cabinet approved the council's new five-year Care Market Strategy. The strategy sets out how the council will work with care providers in the county and other voluntary and community organizations to ensure there is enough care accommodation and workforce to meet adult social care need. Demand is forecast to keep growing, and providing better support for unpaid carers. You can read the new strategy here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/asset-library/suffolk-care-market-strategy-2025-2030.pdf>
- Thurston Community College – at a meeting with the Head of the College there is still no memorandum of understanding from the DFE but Suffolk County Council are looking to increase numbers to 1,800. Current plans would put the 6th form in the library classes.
- Thurston Primary School - plans announced to provide more accommodation.
- Road works on A14 – has anyone noticed HGV's not using the diversion routes?
- Noise and Air quality pollution – I have asked SCC as to who covers this but they have stated that this is covered by SCC. It appears that MSDC that deals with noise pollution and SCC with air pollution, so I have spoken to the SCC director last Thursday
- Sign post Norton / Church Road Crossroads – this has been reported.
- Possible gate into Primary School by crossing on Norton Road – I have spoken to the Highways Officer about this. He agreed we will arrange to meet when he is back from leave.
- Council Objections to Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects - The Cabinet meeting on 13 May also agreed that the council should object to the proposals for the Sea Link Grid Reinforcement. The council has also objected to the plans for Eco Power's new large solar farm in north Suffolk, based on several factors including the loss of good quality agricultural land, the impact on communities and the local landscape and damage from cable corridors. A statutory consultation on the plans is expected later in the year.
- Valley Farm Solar Farm - the above may be useful for any comments from the parishes.
- Consultation launched on Developer Contributions - Suffolk County Council has launched a consultation so Suffolk residents can give their views on the contributions which can be sought from developers proposing major planning applications. In 2011, the council published the "Developers Guide to Infrastructure Contributions to make developers aware of what they should consider, and the financial contributions they should take into account to mitigate for the impact of new developments such as housing estates. Developers need to provide funding to the county council to absorb the impact of extra housing to enable it to provide council services, and the consultation asks for public feedback on how this should be calculated. The consultation is open until 9 June and you can find it here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/council-and-democracy/consultations-petitions-and-elections/consultations/developers-guide-to-infrastructure-contributions-in-suffolk>
- Council Annual General Meeting - On Thursday 22 May, all three motions tabled were passed by the council, these included a motion against the government's proposed changes to public consultation for Nationally Significant Infrastructure Projects (NSIPs) like solar farm applications. The council also agreed motions proposing a ban on live animals being used as

prizes on council land, and to support the campaign for Police Community Support Officers (PCSOs) to be eligible for the 20 year long service medal which is currently for warranted police officers only.

- Local Government Reorganization – Engagement Meetings - Suffolk County Council is currently arranging meetings with town and parish councils (As the administration's position is that one council would be best for Suffolk, it is likely that they will be promoting this at the meetings. The one in Woolpit is on Friday 6th June at 7.30pm. County councillors have not been invited to the meetings but as your representatives, we would very much like to be there – if you are attending one of these meetings, please make contact with your local county councillor to find out if they are coming.
- Nominations sought for Suffolk Community Awards 2025 - Nominations are now open for the Suffolk Community Awards 2025, which is organized by Community Action Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and Suffolk Association of Local Councils. The awards ceremony will showcase the excellent work and achievements of individuals, groups and local councils across Suffolk with 18 awards, including a new one for a local council's efforts respond to climate change. Other award categories cover youth participation and young person of the year, community building, contribution to volunteering, most active community and council, councillor, young councillor and clerk of the year. Nominations are now open and must be made by Sunday 13 July at www.suffolkcommunityawards.co.uk.

Appendix D - District Cllrs' Report to Full Council – Cllrs. David Bradbury & Harry Richardson

Report from Cllr. Bradbury – reported awaited

Report from Cllr. Richardson

- Suffolk District Council - Cllr Keith Scarff (Liberal Democrat) has been elected as the new Chair of Mid Suffolk District Council, choosing Stowmarket Relief Trust as his charity for the year. He succeeds Cllr Dan Pratt, following last month's Annual Council Meeting vote. Cllr Lorraine Baker was elected Vice Chair. The Chair's duties include civic responsibilities and selecting a charity for fundraising efforts. Cllr Scarff has chosen to support Stowmarket Relief Trust.
- Local Government Reorganisation feedback In May the government provided its response to the proposals submitted for local government reorganisation in Suffolk. Final proposals must be submitted in September this year, after which the government will make its final decision. The government's letter to the local authorities in Suffolk can be found here: [interim-feedback-suffolk.pdf](#)
- Armed Forces Covenant - Mid Suffolk District Council has reaffirmed their commitment to the Armed Forces Covenant, benefiting thousands of local families. The commitment is set out in an action plan, including:
 - Special consideration is given to armed forces individuals and families when it comes housing, to ensure they are not at a disadvantage.
 - As part of wider work, the councils will consider how tenants and their families who are vulnerable as a result of military service are identified along with support options.
 - Raising awareness of opportunities to join the organisation among service leavers and supporting the needs of service families and reservists who work for the councils.
 - Council suppliers and local markets will also be encouraged to take action to support the covenant.

The councils will also be raising further awareness of the covenant with staff, including employer-supported volunteering opportunities relating to the armed forces. The covenant outlines actions to support current and former Armed Forces members and their families, ensuring they face no disadvantage compared to other citizens. While the councils have always

supported the covenant, they are now restating their commitment and presenting a refreshed action plan to achieve its goals.

- Tree for Life - Applications for the free Tree for Life scheme are now open for families in Babergh and Mid Suffolk celebrating new arrivals. The program is available to families welcoming a newborn or adopted child in 2025. Each year, parents can plant a fruit tree to mark their child's arrival, or apply for a memory tree if they have lost a child during this period. Over two thousand trees have been given out since the initiative started, with 300 families participating last year. The scheme helps commemorate special moments and boosts tree coverage across the districts, encouraging environmental interest. Applicants can choose their tree and receive expert advice on planting and care.

June Briefing Note for town and parish councils – from Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils