

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>

- Motions to Council - At the last full council all parties agreed to congratulate all the new MPs and to call on them to make the case for Suffolk. My group brought a motion to the council meeting on Thursday 11 July to propose that the council review and streamline processes to use housing developer funding for local improvement work. It was acknowledged that often, infrastructure works needed following additional housing were delayed for years, whether this was due to designing, programming or undertaking the works to a decent standard. Often these works are scheduled and provided by SCC, but sometimes the developer will be responsible for them which can also lead to delays and make local communities frustrated and ultimately resentful of new development. The motion was passed by councillors and the hope is that this will speed up the process for new junctions, footpaths, cycle paths and road improvements near new housing developments. Within my speech I highlighted FISHWICK CORNER. I have sent an extremely strongly worded email to the leader of the council, the director for highways and other leading councillors about FISHWICK CORNER. I know you have a response from the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure at Suffolk County Council
- MEETING WITH DEVELOPERS – Barret David Wilson Homes - I hope that was useful and we wait to see the outcome of their consultation.
- Flooding - Beyton are arranging a meeting with a Highways Officer in the next few weeks.
- Ixworth Road - yet again I have asked what progress on this.
- Verge Cutting and Surface Dressing – the schedule has been sent.
- Extra Investment agreed for Special Education Needs - at Cabinet on Tuesday 25 July, the proposal to invest a further £9.1 million in Suffolk’s SEND (Special Educational Needs and Disabilities) service was agreed. This is to fund extra staff and capacity to make sure the council can achieve its targets for assessing children and production of Education, Health and Care Plans (EHCPs). The investment will be funded through the council’s reserves, and will be £2.6 million extra for the rest of this financial year, £3 million in 2025/26, and £3.5 million in 2026/27
- Youth Justice Plan - at Council on Thursday 11 July, we reviewed the new Youth Justice Plan for 2024-2025 which outlined the ways the council plans to support young people who become involved in the criminal justice system. The plan outlines the ambitions of the council to reduce the number of girls, children in care and minority ethnic children currently over-represented in the Suffolk system, and support children involved in the criminal justice system or at risk of re-offending to engage with education, training or employment.
- Scrutinising the State of Suffolk Roads - on Tuesday 23 July, the council’s scrutiny committee met to discuss the state of the roads in the county, how much was spent annually and how works were prioritised. Officers from Highways explained how roads are categorised from Green to Red (poor condition), that the optimal resurfacing programme would require around

£50m per year in funding, whereas the current amount available for resurfacing works was more like £17m per year. My group are pressing for a review of the county's Highway Maintenance Operational Plan (HMOP) which sets out the parameters on what defects Highways respond to and the timeframe for response. We also believe the reporting systems for defects is not working correctly. All of the committee agreed that better communication with residents and timely fixes for road defects would be beneficial to the public perception of Suffolk's roads – as overall the condition of roads rated Red (in poor condition) has dropped since 2012, and the number of roads rated Green (in good condition) has risen.

- Suffolk Youth Climate Conference - On 3 July, 250 local schoolchildren pledged to write to their local Member of Parliament about climate change after an inspiring address by Chris Packham, renowned UK naturalist, at this year's Suffolk Youth Climate Conference. The event was held at Suffolk One Sixth Form College and organised by the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership.
- Thurston Library - pleased to be at the official opening of the Sensory Garden which is beautiful. Congratulations on the hard work getting this done.

Appendix D - District Cllr's Report to Full Council – Cllrs. David Bradbury and Austin Davies –

- MSDC Meeting - Following the general election Mid Suffolk District Council meetings held a meeting this month. CIFCO annual report and the 2024/25 business plan was presented and accepted. David Bradbury replaced Austin Davies as a CIFCO Director.

Mid Suffolk District Council has agreed new cost-of-living support for residents - including cuts to hundreds of council tax bills, and stepping in to replace a Government fund which ends in October. Under the first new measure, residents who already pay reduced council tax rates could see a further cut of up to £50 from their bills. In the second, Mid Suffolk will provide money to extend a Household Support Fund, which offers help to those struggling with the likes of rent and service charges. Currently, the Government funds this scheme nationwide, but it is expected to end in October.

A new £1.5 million fund was set up to support the rejuvenation of Stowmarket High Town. This amount is part of the Gateway 14 dividend.

MSDC is working with various agencies (ie Natural England) to produce guidance to owners of Listed buildings to be able to carry out 'Eco improvements' (PV,/EV charging/heat pumps, glazing etc) without the need to apply for planning permission.

- Planning - Barratt homes consultations held with Thurston residents, Parish Council, District and County Councillors on the 210 homes reserved matters.

Persimmon application for 61 homes on the land between College Park and Thurston Community College has also carried out consultations with Councillors.

Applications DC/23/02429 and DC/23/02430 show be presented to the planning committee on 11th September.

- Flood prevention - Meeting was held between Beyton and Thurston Parish Council with the aims of solving the flooding on Thurston/Beyton Road (by A14) whilst avoiding any inundation of properties in Beyton, Thurston or Pakenham.
- Business rates - All business in Norton and Stowlangtoff that are adversely affected by the closure of the Ixworth Road whilst the bridge is repaired can apply to BMSDC for business rate reductions.
- Locality grants - Grants have been made to Stowlangtoff Parish Council towards the creation of a 'quiet lane' on Kiln road. Improvements to the Recreation Ground Pavilion in Thurston are also being supported.

August Briefing Note for town and parish councils – from Babergh & Mid Suffolk District Councils - [Mid Suffolk District Council published its second annual State of the District report this month](#)

Drawing on a range of open-source data published at district level and the Council's own resident survey, the report provides an overview of data that highlights many of the strengths within the district alongside some of the key challenges that the Council and its partners are seeking to address.

[Councils first in country to clear the way for listed building energy upgrades](#)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils will clear the way for thousands of listed building owners to make sensitive energy efficiency upgrades – in a new approach which is the first of its kind in the country.

[Hundreds to get £50 off council tax bills as Mid Suffolk agrees new cost-of-living support](#)

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[Additional funding approved to allow vulnerable residents to stay in their own homes](#)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have this week agreed to increase grants to carry out home adaptations for some of their most vulnerable residents.

[Planning go ahead for green tenants at Gateway 14](#)

Planning consent has been granted for two buildings at Gateway 14, Stowmarket, both occupied by manufacturers of eco-friendly construction materials.

[Library extension and play facilities boosted by £600k fund](#)

A £538,000 contribution to a library refurbishment is one of the projects to benefit from monies collected from developers in Mid Suffolk.

[Council house improvements at risk due to 'broken' funding system, authority warns](#)

Mid Suffolk District Council has warned progress on improving its council homes is under threat due to serious challenges caused by a 'broken' national funding model.

[Community Governance Reviews in Mid Suffolk – next steps](#)

Following consultation with residents, Mid Suffolk District Council voted earlier this year to accept the recommendations of its Community Governance Working Group and not to change the administrative boundary between Onehouse Parish Council and Stowmarket Town Council.

[Initiative to tackle inequality reaches 100,000 participation and meals milestone](#)

An initiative, backed by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, designed to encourage young people to exercise and enjoy outdoor activities has reached an important milestone.

[New brand launched to help Suffolk Coast get Wildlife Wise](#)

A project working with local residents and visitors to prevent disturbance and damage to wildlife and habitats along the Suffolk Coast has been given a fresh new look.