

## **District Councillor's Report – Oct 2020**

### **Mid Suffolk communities to benefit from £227,000 funding boost**

Housing growth in Mid Suffolk will fund a range of local projects – including railway station improvements, electrical vehicle charging points and new community facilities – following agreement by councillors recently.

### **Community invited to feedback on plans for Gateway 14**

Businesses and residents have been invited to feedback on plans for Gateway 14, a proposed mixed-use business park outside Stowmarket. Leaflets have been distributed to local households and a dedicated community engagement website has been launched to share draft plans and invite feedback from the local community. The deadline for feedback is 31 October 2020.

<https://www.g14yoursay.co.uk/>

Gateway 14 could accommodate logistics buildings, offices, and Research and Development campus-style buildings of various sizes. In addition, there could be complementary uses, such as a petrol filling station, a hotel, a public house and retail unit(s) alongside the A14 and A1120 in the north west of the site. Two indicative master plans have been drawn up to illustrate the principles of design and the potential configuration of land uses and buildings across the site. The draft proposals, which are available on the website, are guided by adopted and emerging planning policy, feedback from Mid Suffolk District Council Planning Authority and occupier demand.

### **Babergh and Mid Suffolk welcome £100,000 government funding to tackle rough sleeping/homelessness**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have been awarded £100,000, through the Next Steps Accommodation Programme. This is to help cover the costs of commercial hotels needed to provide accommodation and support during the colder weather. The funding has been awarded as part of the government's commitment to end rough sleeping for good.

## **Councillors reach consensus in concerns about changes to the planning system**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved a response to the Government's planning consultation – with councillors in agreement that proposed changes would not support the councils' ambition to build thriving communities with bright and healthy futures. The agreed response answers each question in the consultation documentations in detail, raised extensive concerns over the proposed direction suggested and reject many suggestions out right. The gravest concerns were targeted against the proposed revisions to the standard method for assessing local housing need which, if adopted, will see an increase from 435 to 749 new houses in MSDC per year.

Regards

*Rick*

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