

District Councillor's Report – Jun 2021

Business grants to boost economic recovery in Mid Suffolk

Back to Business' Grant

A significant new funding scheme to deliver an economic boost and support recovery from Covid is now available to businesses and not-for-profit organisations in Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The Back to Business Grant is a one-off payment of up to £25,000 to support businesses in their recovery from the impact of Covid 19 and improve their long-term sustainability through resilience and diversification projects. Designed to support local post Covid economic recovery by encouraging projects that enhance visitor experience or increase footfall in town and village centres. Priority will be given to organisations working in a partnership approach to local projects delivering economic recovery, projects that support job creation and opportunities to improve to business resilience and sustainability.

This grant fund is also open to businesses and organisations who are seeking to grow or diversify their business, create more jobs or increase productivity. Businesses or organisations trading from Babergh or Mid Suffolk, that meet the criteria, can apply for the Back to Business Grant online with a project outline or summary of activity that will be supported by this funding.

Discretionary Restart Grant

A significant new grant fund, launched by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, is set to support the recovery of local businesses reopening after lockdown but unable to access the Government's Restart Grant scheme. The councils' Discretionary Restart Grant is designed to help with costs associated with reopening following the lifting of lockdown restrictions, to help businesses resume trading at pre-Covid levels. The grant will be a one-off payment of up to £18,000 for eligible businesses. Eligibility and payments will consider the scale and size of business, impact of Covid, permitted opening dates and anticipated reopening costs. It cannot be used to cover salaries, fixed costs such as utilities, or be accessed by businesses outside the districts.

Business owners must submit a new application for the Discretionary Restart Grant regardless of whether they have received a previous Covid business support grant. There are no automatic payments for either the Discretionary Restart Grant or Government Restart Grant. When applying, businesses must provide:

- details about their business, including evidence that the business is located in Babergh or Mid Suffolk
- business insurance
- an overview of the impact of the Covid lockdowns
- evidence of how the grant will be used

Applications for the Discretionary Restart Grant must be submitted by Sunday 13 June 2021.

New Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council

Mid Suffolk District Council named Cllr Paul Ekpenyong as its new Chairman at its annual council meeting this week. Cllr Ekpenyong, who represents St Peters Ward, Stowmarket, was elected Chair of Mid Suffolk District Council at the meeting on Monday (May 24).

Three Mid Suffolk parishes see Neighbourhood Plans approved at referendum

Residents in Drinkstone, Eye and Wilby have voted to adopt their Neighbourhood Development Plans – outlining a positive vision for how and where future growth should take place to meet local identified need

Helping us SCRAP fly tipping

Since lockdown, fly tipping has sadly been on the rise, with our teams now collecting double the amount of fly tips than they were last year. We need you help to share the message among our towns and parishes to help tackle this blight on our countryside. We'd encourage you to look at [the information available on the Suffolk Recycling website](#) which includes a leaflet and other helpful resources. Please also share your own social media posts or tweet those produced on the Suffolk Recycling or district council channels.

Please also remind residents to [report fly tips to us via our website](#) – which included a recently updated tool to make it more mobile friendly and include a map to help report “from the scene” - so we can investigate and clear them as soon as possible.

Rough sleeping initiative

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have received £403,154 to help rough sleepers across the districts off the streets, following a successful joint bid for funding.

Regards

Rick

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