

District Councillor's Monthly Report 2022

Ground-Breaking Ceremony Marks Start of Construction at Gateway 14

Construction is officially underway at Gateway 14 – the multi-million-pound business, innovation and logistics development in Stowmarket.

The 'ground-breaking' ceremony saw Mid Suffolk District Council leader Cllr Suzie Morley put the first spade in the ground on the site, which is set to create hundreds of jobs for the district, boost the local economy and attract investment into the region. The development, by Gateway 14 Ltd (wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council) and development manager, Jaynic, will provide a new base for manufacturing, logistics and R&D businesses as well as providing innovation space for smaller and start-up businesses.

Playing Our Part to Support Ukrainian Refugees

Both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have pledged their full backing for the Ukrainian people, with support for refugees arriving in our districts as part of the Homes for Ukraine scheme. Both councils are represented on Suffolk's Ukraine Task Group alongside representatives from the county's other local authorities, three Clinical Commissioning Groups, Health Outreach, Suffolk police, Suffolk Refugee Support, Anglia Care Trust and Community Action Suffolk.

Council officers are responsible for carrying out property inspections of homes once sponsors in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are matched with a Ukraine family or individual by the Home Office. We are working hard to ensure homes are appropriate and safe as quickly as possible. More information is available on our website, including how to sign up for a weekly email update.

Payments of Council Tax Energy Rebates Now Underway

Payments of the Government's £150 energy rebate are now well underway for eligible households across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. The Council is responsible for administering the council tax energy rebate for more than 66,000 households across the district, as part of measures to protect residents from rising energy bills.

There is one payment per household, regardless of the number of occupants or council taxpayers named on the bill. Payments have started with those who pay their council tax by direct debit as we already have bank details for these residents. If you pay your council tax by direct debit, you do not need to contact the Council. Your payment will be made direct to your bank during April/May. If you don't currently pay your council tax bill by Direct Debit, we will write to you over coming weeks with details of the process to be followed to receive the payment. In the meantime, please be wary of potential scams and do not give out your personal information or bank details in response to texts, emails or phone calls.

Councils Announce More Accessible Facilities

Four new Changing Places facilities will be created in key visitor locations in Babergh and Mid Suffolk following a successful bid for grant funding for almost £200,000.

Changing Places facilities are larger accessible toilets that feature specialist equipment such as hoists, privacy screens, adult-sized changing benches, peninsula toilets with ample space for carers. Working with key partners to identify suitable locations, Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils were awarded the full allocation of their bid, meaning that each district will benefit from two Changing Places facilities.

Rick Meyer

Richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 07771703668