

District Councillor's Report December 2022

Council Achievements Highlighted In New Reports

Millions of pounds of investment, action to combat climate change, and support for thousands of residents and businesses are amongst the achievements captured in two reports published last month.

Titled 'What have we done for you?', the reports outline the impact of work carried out by Babergh District Council and Mid Suffolk District Council since the district council elections in 2019.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/features/reports-highlight/>

Babergh And Mid Suffolk Councils Call For The Abuse Of Councillors To End

The abuse and intimidation of councillors must end – that's the call from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils amid rising concerns about toxicity in public and political discourse. Both councils have agreed motions stating a zero-tolerance approach, after new figures showed around 70% of councillors nationwide have faced abuse in the last year.

The councils say increasing levels of abuse, particularly online, is having a detrimental impact on local democracy – and that 'normalisation' of such attacks must be challenged. A series of measures have now been agreed, with both authorities supporting the Local Government Association's Debate Not Hate campaign.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/babergh-and-mid-suffolk-councils-call-for-the-abuse-of-councillors-to-end/>

Shop Local For The 12 Days Of Christmas To Boost The Local Economy

People are urged to get behind brilliant small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk this Christmas, with figures showing the huge impact you can have by shopping locally. Towns and villages across the two districts are preparing for the festive season with family events and great shopping experiences. People can also look for gift ideas and inspiration from 400 local businesses using the Virtual High Streets for Stowmarket, Sudbury, Needham Market, Eye and Hadleigh – all accessible by visiting the [Virtual High Street](#).

Even a small spend at an independent retailer can have a positive impact, with more of that money – 63% according to some estimates - staying in the local economy. For example, if every person aged 16-64 in the Babergh and Mid Suffolk districts spent the equivalent of £1 with a local firm for each of the 12 days of Christmas, it would amount to £1.3million.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/shop-local-for-the-12-days-of-christmas-to-boost-the-local-economy/>

Waste Collection Schedule For The Christmas And New Year Period

Christmas and New Year waste collections schedules are now available on our website. Collections will take place as normal up to, and including Friday 23 December, then from Monday 26 Decembers to Saturday 14 January, refuse and recycling collections will be on an amended schedule.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Waste-Services/Calendars/MID-SUFFOLK-Christmas-New-Year-Waste-Collection-Schedule-2022-2023.pdf>

Measures Agreed To Protect Districts' Waterways

Councillors at both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils voted unanimously last month to support measures to protect local rivers and waterways. More information. Both councils agreed motions this week designed to address concerns over water quality, and the impact of regular wastewater discharge – including untreated sewage – into local rivers and seas.

Measures agreed include inviting officers from Anglian Water, together with representatives from the Environment Agency and Natural England to a public scrutiny meeting to answer questions on current levels of sewage discharge. The councils will also introduce requests for further information as part of the planning process.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/measures-agreed-to-protect-districts-waterways/>

More Than £1.7million For Secondary school Expansion Leads Latest Round Of CIL Funding

The expansion of Thurston Community College is among the projects benefitting from home developer contributions across Mid Suffolk and Babergh, after councillors approved the latest round of Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) bids. More than £2.1m is making its way to groups investing in new play facilities, footpaths, car parks, village halls and community gardens thanks to CIL payments – a legal requirement paid by developers of residential sites across the districts.

Every six months, the councils consider the bids made for CIL funding, earmarked for projects to help local infrastructure keep pace with development. This latest allocation is the tenth round of CIL funding and brings the total allocation delivered to the districts to more than £13m since May 2018. The largest of today's awards is a £1.78m investment in Thurston Community College, creating an additional 150 school spaces for 11 to 16-year-olds, in order to accommodate the expected increase in school-age children within the catchment area.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/more-than-1-7million-for-secondary-school-expansion-leads-latest-round-of-cil-funding/>

Suffolk Public Sector Leaders Pledge Another £913,000 To Tackle Climate Emergency

Suffolk's ambition to be net-zero by 2030 has been bolstered by an almost £1million pledge for more initiatives to reduce carbon emissions and tackle the effects of climate change. Suffolk Public Sector Leaders, which includes Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils, has agreed £913,458 funding for the next phase of the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan.

New projects include making more homes energy-efficient, development of Suffolk's EV charging infrastructure to support taxis, energy audits for businesses and developing sustainable itineraries for the visitor economy.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/suffolk-public-sector-leaders-pledge-another-913000-to-tackle-climate-emergency/>

Online Climate Change Awareness Course Launches For Suffolk

A free, online course has been launched to coincide with COP27 to support individuals and businesses to learn about the impacts of climate change in Suffolk. The course aims to improve understanding of the environmental issues facing communities in the county and beyond.

'An Introduction to Climate Change Awareness' presents an opportunity to learn more about the climate emergency and the importance of acting to reduce its impacts. It has been funded by Suffolk County Council as part of the wider Green Suffolk collaborative partnership, which includes Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, to reduce the impacts of climate change in Suffolk. The course is free and easy to access through [the Creating the Greenest County website](#)

In response to the climate emergency, Suffolk's public sector organisations including the NHS, the police and local councils are working together to implement the Suffolk Climate Emergency Plan. This ambitious plan was set out in 2021 to drive Suffolk towards carbon neutrality by 2030. The online course is designed for anyone wishing to learn more about the effects of climate change and is suitable for businesses looking to offer climate awareness training to staff. It was piloted during the summer months and businesses were invited to complete the course and provide feedback.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/online-climate-change-awareness-course-launches-for-suffolk/>

Councillors Recognise Unsung Hero At Active Suffolk Awards

Cllrs Mary McLaren and Julie Flatman were honoured to present the Unsung Hero Award at the Active Suffolk Awards last month.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/councillors-recognise-unsung-hero-at-active-suffolk-awards/>

Local Residents Invited To Help Shape Plans For Elmswell's Exemplar Housing Development

Elmswell residents were invited to a special drop-in session organised by Mid Suffolk District Council last month to find out more about proposals for an exemplar eco-friendly housing development and help shape future plans for the site. The £15m development would include a mix of affordable homes for social housing and open market properties – all boasting the best possible green credentials and sustainable features to showcase to developers the type of sustainable and high standard that the council wants within its district.

<https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/local-residents-invited-to-help-shape-plans-for-elmswells-exemplar-housing-development/>

Regards

Rick

Rick Meyer

richard.meyer@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Tel: 07771703668