



Mid Suffolk District Council

Report for The Stonhams Ward – February 2019

Draft Budget to be considered at Full Council agreed

The Council will be considering a proposed budget for 2019/20 at their meeting on 21 February. This budget includes proposals to offer discounts of up to 100% on council tax for care leavers, supporting the most vulnerable in society, while also proposing a Business Rates Relief policy for small retailers, including shops, cafes and restaurants.

The Budget also includes proposals to raise the District Council precept of Council Tax by just 2% a year for a Band D property – equivalent to only 6p a week or £3.26 pa. This allows the council to put forward a budget that proposes no cuts in front line services. You can see the full details of the budget councillors will be asked to vote on in the 'Budget Book' for 2019/20 [online](#).

New Parking Plan for Mid Suffolk to be Drawn Up

Mid Suffolk's Cabinet has voted to go out to public consultation on a draft Joint Area Parking Plan with Babergh District Council. The plan, which does not include any proposals to increase car parking charges, sets out eight parking policy objectives it intends to achieve. These include establishing standard on-street parking scheme operating hours, utilising off-street parking places to assist with traffic management and more.

The draft plan will be subject to a six week consultation, the details of which will be published shortly. For more information read the [full story online](#).

Councils Pay £549k to Infrastructure Projects in 2018

In the 2018 calendar year Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils passed £549,674.93 from developers to local infrastructure projects. This brings the total over the last three years to over £1.2 million. It has funded a variety of infrastructure projects, from sports facilities to public transport, and was collected from developers who have brought forward developments, both residential and commercial, in the districts. For more information read [our full press release](#).

Public Developers' Contributions Database Nominated for National Award

Mid Suffolk and Babergh's [Exacom database](#) – giving the public access to figures for developer contributions towards infrastructure all the way back to 1974 – has been nominated for the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence.

The database, which is the first of its kind in the country, is in the running for an award within the Excellence in Tech Within Planning Practice category. As it is the first such database to be



published Mid Suffolk, along with Babergh, have been designated Pilot Authorities by the developer. You can find out more on [our website](#).

New Online Portal for Customers Launched

A new MyAccount portal has been launched, enabling residents to view bills, reminders and notices, apply for discounts and update personal details from home. The portal is run by the Shared Revenue Partnership, which consists of Mid Suffolk District Council, Babergh District Council and Ipswich Borough Council.

The portal allows access to paperless eBilling for Council Tax and/or Business Rates as well as updates on Housing Benefit and Council Tax reduction claims and many other services. The free service is available via our websites – find out more in the [full press release](#).

We want your views on our Communities Strategy

A consultation on our draft Communities Strategy has been launched by Mid Suffolk and Babergh, inviting feedback on how the councils plan to lead on the key challenges and opportunities facing the two districts.

The consultation will close at noon on Friday 1 March. The draft strategy sets out several ambitions and high-level commitments which have been developed based on feedback from a wide range of partners. You can find out more, including how to take part, by visiting our [website](#).

Are You Election Ready?

With May's elections looming, we've published a FAQ on our website, including details of which bodies will be holding elections, how to register to vote and where to find information on how to become a councillor. You can share this page and help us urge everyone to register to vote before 12 April. View the [full webpage](#) for more details.

Meetings

- 21 February – Full Council
- 27 February – Development Control Committee B
- 27 February – Planning Referrals Committee
- 4 March – Cabinet
- 11 March – Joint Audit and Standards Committee

For agendas and minutes, please visit the [Democratic Services homepage](#).