

## **MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT TO CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL 18<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER 2021**

**Update on Covid-19 in Suffolk:** The regular Suffolk CoronaWatch Bulletin available online continues to give an up-to-date snapshot of case numbers across the county and shows how Mid Suffolk compares to neighbouring districts and boroughs. An update on the booster vaccine rollout can be found on the SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website.

**Success for Mid Suffolk and Babergh at national awards:** Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils recently received national recognition for their innovative support of communities through Covid and beyond, winning gold in the Institute of Higher Business Studies Public Sector Transformation Awards 2021 for their Virtual High Street initiative supporting local retailers.

**Councils prioritise residents' wellbeing:** Mid Suffolk and Babergh councillors have given the go-ahead to a new Wellbeing Strategy, building upon the councils' continued commitment to helping its residents live healthy and independent lives.

**Business Innovation Support Scheme to boost business growth:** Independent businesses on and off the high street can now benefit from a new grant scheme designed to support business growth and innovation which has been set up by Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils. Further details are available from the councils' websites.

**Ultra-low emission HVO fleet takes to the road:** Mid Suffolk and Babergh are the first rural UK councils to switch their fleet to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO), cutting carbon emissions by up to 90% and supporting the councils' carbon neutral aims.

**Go-ahead for solar carport plans:** Following planning approval, work is now underway on solar carports to help power two council-owned leisure centres, as part of council plans to help offset climate change.

**Joint Local Plan public examination resumes:** The Hearing Sessions for the public examination of the Mid Suffolk and Babergh Joint Local Plan have resumed and are being held virtually, being live streamed in real time on the councils' Joint Local Plan YouTube channel.

**Chance to have your say on the future of parking:** Everyone is encouraged to have their say on Mid Suffolk and Babergh's future parking strategy, with residents, businesses and visitors across the districts urged to help shape plans for the next decade, via an online questionnaire on the councils' websites.

**Mid Suffolk calls for Secretary of State to enter into the 'Snoasis' debate:** Mid Suffolk District Council is calling on the Government to determine the fate of a proposed £500m tourist resort, now known as Valley Ridge, by ruling on the future of a neighbouring Viridor landfill site at Great Blakenham.

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