

Summer holiday activities and free family fun days

We will soon be promoting our summer holiday activity programme to encourage everyone to stay active and healthy during the school break.

Our holiday, activities and food (HAF) programme, funded by the Department for Education, ensures children in need, for example those eligible for free school meals, continue to receive support through holidays - with places also available to book by others looking to entertain their youngsters locally for a small fee. [Find your local activities.](#)

Also during July we will be holding a series of free family fun days across the districts - offering everything from climbing walls to archery, face-painting to sports. The events will be 10am to 2pm on:

- Monday 24 July at Eye Community Centre
- Tuesday 25 July at Stowmarket Recreation Ground
- Thursday 27 July at Shotley Community Centre
- Friday 28 July at East House Park, Hadleigh
- and Monday 31 July at Belle Vue Park, Sudbury

Look out for further information on social media over coming weeks and please help us spread the word within your towns and parishes.

Works get underway to install almost 30 new electric vehicle charge points in council car parks

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are set to install 28 new electric vehicle chargers across their car park network this year, to help tackle climate change. Mid Suffolk car parks due to benefit from the new chargers are:

Ipswich Street, Bury Street, Milton Road, Iliffe Way, Union Street West all in Stowmarket. Others in Lavenham, Hadleigh and Sudbury.

Districts welcome the Tour of Britain

The UK's biggest professional cycle race, the men's Tour of Britain, is heading to Suffolk on Thursday 7 September. Start and finish in Felixstowe passing through Ipswich Stowmarket and Woodbridge amongst others. Keep an eye on MSDC social media pages for the latest information or the Tour of Britain website.

National Grid pylons consultation

National Grid has launched its latest public consultation on plans for a new high-voltage power line across East Anglia, including Mid Suffolk and Babergh.

The Norwich to Tilbury project has previously been opposed by both councils amid significant concerns, particularly over the impact on the environment.

The public consultation events in our area were:

Wednesday 19 July, 2pm-7pm - Copdock Village Hall, Old London Road, Copdock.

There are also consultation webinars on July 5 (1-2pm), July 25 (7-8pm), August 12, 17 (both 10-11am). [For more details visit the National Grid website.](#)

Gateway14: Latest plans submitted

Plans have been submitted for a new 164,500 sq ft manufacturing and warehouse unit at Gateway 14 – the new state-of-the-art business, innovation and logistics park taking shape in Stowmarket. This is speculative planning permission a lease holder or owner has not yet been identified. Plans cover EV charging, solar power, rain water collection and nesting boxes and are available for comment on the planning portal.

Mid Suffolk District Council and CARE Suffolk joint statement on solar farm application

Mid Suffolk District Council and CARE (Community Alliance for a Rural Environment) Suffolk issued a joint statement about the Bramford Green solar farm application and appeal.

“When a council refuses a planning application, like it did this one in February, the applicant has the right to appeal with the Planning Inspector. On this occasion the applicant did just that.

“When the applicant makes their case to the Inspector it is then good practice for the council to review its position and seek legal counsel. This legal advice was considered at the first opportunity on 21 June at the newly-formed planning committee’s first meeting.

“The committee will always consider and value public opinion alongside the recommendations of professional planning officers in reaching a decision, which the committee believes to be in the best interests of the district.

“However, it is bound to reach its decision in accordance with its statutory duty, which is to determine planning applications in accordance with the local development plan unless material considerations indicate otherwise, including among other things the National Planning Policy Framework.

“After careful consideration of the legal advice received, and taking into account material considerations that have changed since the original decision, the council will not be defending the reasons for refusal.

“Community representatives will continue to defend similar reasons to the council’s refusal at appeal. They will continue to make their case directly to the inspector, based on their own concerns and evidence.

“We will continue to lobby government to provide urgent clarity through the production of a more joined up strategic plan for energy developments as well as a national plan for agriculture, to help all local authorities find the right balance between food production, protecting our countryside, and delivering energy security.

“The council is considering how it proceeds with a separate ‘free-go’ application for the solar farm, and the various options, as it may influence the appeal process.”

Locality award agreed to be processed is part funding Needham Boxing Club Toilets provision.

Case work load includes but not limited to, the lack of blister pack recycling, a tree shading a sitting room window, bulldozing access through a hedge and separately the refurbishment of grade 2 listed building without permission. Mowing grass verges and

trimming back footpath hedges. Thanks too to previous councillors Mike Norris and Stephen Phillips and Councillor Kay Oaks for funding the speed reduction cameras with locality awards on the approach roads into Needham High Street which are now installed. Seems to have a good impact on traffic entering the town but there remains an issue on cars speeding up before exiting the speed limit area.

Ross Piper has kept me updated on actions in respect of Anti social behaviour at Needham Lakes particularly the bbq area at weekends and issues at Horsepond Place with Landscaping and repairs to property.

The next District Council meeting will be in Elmswell on the 19th of July with the Planning Committee meeting earlier in the day at Endeavour House.

HM Revenue and Customs (HMRC) is reminding parents and carers of teens staying in full-time education or training ([see GOV.UK for the full list](#)) that they need to let HMRC know to continue receiving Child Benefit payments. Individuals wanting to continue claiming Child Benefit are reminded to take action by 31 August, or their payments will automatically stop.

[Individuals with children aged 16 and 17 who confirm this online or on the HMRC app](#) will see changes applied to their Child Benefit claim immediately, by [viewing their proof of entitlement](#).

[Individuals with children 18 or over who are eligible can advise HMRC on an online i-form](#), and changes will be applied automatically.

At MSDC meeting held in Elmswell 19th July a motion with full cross party support was passed part of which reads “While the Council will be making a formal response to the non-statutory consultation on the Norwich to Tilbury overhead line project (formerly East Anglia Green) in due course, through this motion we re-state publicly, on behalf of our communities, our objection to the proposed pylon line, and our strong preference for an integrated offshore approach. We therefore agree that the Chair of the Council will write to the relevant government minister to communicate these objections”.

Kind regards,
Terry Lawrence.
Joint Councillor Needham Market Ward

