

## **Wilby Parish Council Report by Councillor Julie Flatman September 1st, 2021**

### **An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk**

Regular bulletins continue to be produced to give a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins through existing fortnightly updates for councillors, or [via the Suffolk County Council website](#).

An update on the vaccine rollout can be found on the [SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website](#).

We continue to play our part in response to the pandemic, alongside public sector colleagues within the Suffolk Resilience Forum, supporting in the event of local outbreaks as well as continuing to offer support to our communities and businesses. Please see the council website for more information.

### **Welcome Back Fund**

We have now written to all town and parish councils in Mid Suffolk who are eligible to apply for a share of the Welcome Back Fund. Completed request forms should be returned to us as soon as possible to ensure that communities do not miss out on this important funding opportunity.

In order to distribute the funding fairly, we have offered a selection of items to help each town and parish create a welcoming and safe environment for local trade and tourism as we exit the coronavirus restrictions. The Welcome Back Fund is also supporting a range of events in our key towns, such as a community bounce back event in Needham Market and activity trails in Eye, Needham Market and Stowmarket.

### **Innovate Local scheme launched for businesses**

Start-up businesses in Mid Suffolk are being invited to take part in Innovate Local, a pilot scheme designed to help businesses grow and reach new audiences following the impact of Covid-19.

[Find out more](#)

## **Mid Suffolk District Council lends support to Thank You Day**

The leader of Mid Suffolk District Council has thanked workers in the district for their incredible response to the pandemic.

[Find out more](#)

## **Help Suffolk say thanks**

We are fortunate to have an incredible volunteer network in Mid Suffolk, with many of our residents having gone the extra mile during the past 16 months.

To recognise their efforts, we will be distributing [Suffolk Says Thanks](#) badges over the coming months. If you know of anyone in your community who you think deserves a badge, please [email our communities team](#), who can arrange for this to be sent out.

## **Local council housing officers recognised nationally as ‘community heroes’**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils’ housing officers are in the running for a prestigious national award, for their work in keeping vulnerable residents off the streets during the Covid-19 pandemic.

[Find out more](#)

## **Developing a ‘joined-up’ strategy for parking in our districts**

This week, Babergh and Mid Suffolk cabinets approved work starting on the formulation of a parking strategy for both districts. The joint strategy will look at all elements of parking – including everything from on-street and off-street parking, through to the economic, environmental and community impacts – to ensure that shoppers, tourists, visitors, residents, workers and commuters have access to sufficient, good quality, safe, welcoming parking opportunities.

The parking strategy, due to be approved by September 2022, will look at our districts’ needs over the next five to ten years – including aspects such as housing growth, business and tourism, as well as environmental and wellbeing factors.

The development of the strategy will, of course, involve consultation with our town and parish councils, residents and businesses, as well as other local authorities, plus a range of organisations including disability forums, emergency services and hospitals, transport operators, voluntary and community groups,

Chambers of Commerce and local town vision groups. Look out for further information over coming weeks.

[Find out more](#)

### **2021 Annual Canvass now underway**

The annual canvass process is now underway and we are asking residents to check their details on the electoral register are up to date to ensure they do not lose their right to vote. To help streamline the process we are encouraging this to be done electronically and continue to provide reassurance that annual canvass emails from us are genuine.

[Find out more](#)

### **Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses**

Businesses and community organisations are being urged to tackle climate change by joining Suffolk's first ever showcase event celebrating sustainability and green energy.

[Find out more](#)

### **Wheels in motion for cycle race**

The full route for this year's Women's Tour has been revealed, with some of the world's top cyclists racing through Babergh and Mid Suffolk once again.

[Find out more](#)

In a further announcement this week, Babergh and Mid Suffolk were announced as locations for the thrilling Sprints and challenging Queen of the Mountains climb of stage six of the Women's Tour.

[Find out more](#)

### **Councils actively support residents to enjoy fit and healthy futures**

The refreshed Leisure, Sport and Physical Activity Strategy for Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been given the go-ahead – enabling communities to be more active and improve their health and wellbeing.

[Find out more](#)

## **District champions ASB Awareness Week**

Mid Suffolk District Council pledged its support to last month's ASB Awareness Week – furthering the council's ongoing commitment to ensuring that its residents lead safe and happy lives.

[Find out more](#)

Town and parish councillors may also be interested in [downloading the new Parish Councillors' Guide to Rural Affordable Housing \(2021\)](#) produced by the Rural Housing Alliance.