**Wilby Parish Council Annual Report by Councillor Julie Flatman**

**June 2020**

I have just completed my first year of my second term as your district councillor, and I would thank you for your kind support. I have had the pleasure of representing your views, queries and even complaints. The villages that make up the ward include Wilby, Brundish, Laxfield, Tannington, and Stradbroke,

In these unprecedented times Mid Suffolk District Council has continued to support local charities, foodbanks and businesses.

We have so far processed grants for local charities and organisations helping the vulnerable for £46,000 and more are in the system.

We have so far processed grants to support small businesses for £18.130 million. There are also more in the system.

We have set up with our partners **Home, But Not Alone** phoneline and our communities’ staff have been answering these calls and making sure help is deployed as quickly as possible. Everyone should now have a card with the emergency number **0800 876 6926**.

As community’s Cabinet member, I have secured funding for various improvements to local amenities within my ward and assisted parishes by sign posting to appropriate funding.

I sit on licensing, Gypsy and traveller steering board, Health and Wellbeing board for Suffolk and Cabinet member for Communities and Housing which takes me across the district.

I have supported the village halls with new equipment, helped buy state of the art playground equipment, etc. Supported reading Clubs, Bowls club, Purchase village sign, Village clock restoration, Stradbroke young musician’s festival and many more projects with my Locality Award.

In the past year, the communities’ team have been successful in delivering the following:

Free swims for all children 16years and under in the school holidays at Stradbroke and Stowmarket.

Social subscribing (activity opposed to pills) at Stradbroke and Fressingfield surgeries rolling out to Debenham and Eye.

Safeguarding, mental health awareness, Dementia awareness and supporting activities and setting up clubs.

Funding two PCSO’s for two years and addressing County Lines and training staff.

Arts and music- across the district.

Town and parish liaison, Community liaison throughout the district,

Grants for improvements to shop fronts across the district any many more projects.

Three-year secured funding for Stowmarket CAB.

Helping villages with securing Assets of Community value.

My locality grants are now up and running please don’t hesitate to get in touch with me if you think your club/organisation could benefit from some extra help for equipment etc.

If you need my help, email [Julie.flatman@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.flatman@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

01986 798661

Best wishes

Julie Flatman

Mid Suffolk District Council

**2019-2020**

# Overview for town and parishes

## Our response to COVID-19

The end of our financial year was, of course, dominated by the outbreak of COVID-19. You can find all the information you need on [our council’s response to COVID-19](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/features/our-covid-19-response/) for our residents, communities, businesses and tenants on our website. [our current *Stick With It Suffolk* campaign.](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/stick-with-it-suffolk-continue-slowing-the-spread-of-coronavirus/)



## Bin day changes – future proofing our waste services

Summer 2019 saw [major changes to our bin collections](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=72c9df85%2Dfec1%2D44cf%2D96d0%2D969bb158573d&ID=251&Source=https%3A%2F%2Fsuffolknet%2Esharepoint%2Ecom%2Fsites%2Fconnect%2Fnewsarchive%2FLists%2FPosts%2FAllPosts%2Easpx%23InplviewHash49c90099%2D6ced%2D4e72%2D9920%2Db86ea326d46d%3DPaged%253DTRUE%2Dp%5FPublishedDate%253D20190812%25252012%25253a32%25253a00%2Dp%5FID%253D270%2DPageFirstRow%253D31&ContentTypeId=0x0110009FD4ACCAF2599F41BDE6C684E807E895) across the district, with thousands of households being informed of a change of day of their collection in order make our rounds more efficient.

## Work begins on the £3.6m redevelopment of The Regal

In March 2020, work began to enhance and develop Stowmarket’s Regal theatre, with three modern cinema screens, a new café and bar. [Mid Suffolk District Council has contributed £2.56m towards the project](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/3-6m-redevelopment-set-to-breathe-new-life-into-the-regal/) as part of a wider vision for Stowmarket – improving leisure provision for the community and attracting more visitors to the town.

## £2.2m leisure upgrade for Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre

While in February 2020 we announce[d a £2.2m development and refurbishment of Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/2-2m-leisure-upgrades-on-the-agenda-for-mid-suffolk/) in Stowmarket.

## Gateway 14 site expanded

Mid Suffolk District Council’s subsidiary company [Gateway 14 Ltd completed the purchase of neighbouring land to unlock development plans](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=72c9df85%2Dfec1%2D44cf%2D96d0%2D969bb158573d&ID=270&Web=a1881ca5%2D6834%2D4d0c%2Da55d%2D6ba60395026c) and a potential multi-million boost for the local economy.

## Needham Lake Visitor Centre/café

Plans for [a £600,000 visitor centre/cafe at Needham Lake](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=72c9df85%2Dfec1%2D44cf%2D96d0%2D969bb158573d&ID=297&Web=a1881ca5%2D6834%2D4d0c%2Da55d%2D6ba60395026c) have been approved and a local operator selected to run it – supporting local youth work and boosting tourism to the town.

Mid Suffolk District Council

## Stowmarket Middle School site to become affordable housing

In September 2019, the green light was given to transform the former [Stowmarket Middle School site](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?ID=272) into much-needed affordable homes.

## Successful Tree for Life scheme

The eco-friendly scheme marking new arrivals continued last year in Mid Suffolk and also launched in Babergh. [See Tree for Life story here.](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=72c9df85%2Dfec1%2D44cf%2D96d0%2D969bb158573d&ID=289&Web=a1881ca5%2D6834%2D4d0c%2Da55d%2D6ba60395026c)

## Council meetings streamed online

Council meetings become accessible to all with online livestreaming from King Edmund Chamber via [our YouTube page.](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSWf_0D13zmegAf5Qv_aZSg) [Full story on bringing democracy online here.](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=72c9df85%2Dfec1%2D44cf%2D96d0%2D969bb158573d&ID=247&Web=a1881ca5%2D6834%2D4d0c%2Da55d%2D6ba60395026c)

## Joint Local Plan went to consultation

Our [Joint Local Plan went out to the public](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=72c9df85%2Dfec1%2D44cf%2D96d0%2D969bb158573d&ID=246&Web=a1881ca5%2D6834%2D4d0c%2Da55d%2D6ba60395026c) last year for consultation with key points including:

* A housing requirement of 17,568 new homes between 2018 and 2036, including 10,008 in Mid Suffolk (556 per year) in accordance with Government guidance.
* Prioritising new retail and town centre uses in the strategically important retail centres of Sudbury, Hadleigh and Stowmarket
* A drive for 35% of homes in relevant applications for 10 or more dwellings to be affordable

**2019-2020**



* Long-term implications of climate change, including flood risk, water supply and biodiversity

**Council pledges to carbon neutral by 2030.**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils vote to support Suffolk’s county-wide aim of becoming carbon neutral by 2030. [Carbon neutral pledge details here.](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/councils-support-2030-carbon-neutral-ambitions/)

## Council wins national award – planning for the future

Planning officers for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils scooped the Best Use of Digital and Technology category in the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards 2020, for paving the way for technological advances as part of 21st century planning. [Full story on the iESE win here.](https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/news/planning-for-success-councils-win-national-award/)

## Free swimming for under 17-year-olds

We extended our free swims offer for October and Christmas holidays following a successful take up during last year’s summer holidays – promoting healthier and active lifestyles in our district. [Free swim story here.](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=72c9df85%2Dfec1%2D44cf%2D96d0%2D969bb158573d&ID=284&Web=a1881ca5%2D6834%2D4d0c%2Da55d%2D6ba60395026c)

**OVO Women’s Tour** We supported the 2019 OVO Women’s Tour with the first stage finishing in Mid Suffolk and were looking forward to welcoming the race to Babergh for its final stage this year, before its postponement due to COVID-19. We now look forward to its return in June 2021. [Last year’s Women’s Tour story here.](https://suffolknet.sharepoint.com/sites/connect/newsarchive/Lists/Posts/Post.aspx?List=72c9df85%2Dfec1%2D44cf%2D96d0%2D969bb158573d&ID=233&Web=a1881ca5%2D6834%2D4d0c%2Da55d%2D6ba60395026c)

**Guidance for shops and businesses as we start to re-open.**

To support towns and parishes deliver safe places, we have developed some [guidance and considerations](https://www.babergh.gov.uk/assets/Features/Covid-19/Social-Distancing/Social-Distancing-Flowchart.pdf) on how to introduce suitable small-scale social distancing measures including:

•             Understanding pedestrian space and how it is used

•             Reviewing pedestrian movement, flow, and potential pinch-points

•             Managing the build-up of queues to support social distancing outside shops and businesses

•             Supporting accessibility requirements within public spaces and queues

There are a number of smaller-scale interventions that can be introduced to support social distancing such as clear signage to remind pedestrians to maintain a 2m distance, introducing one-way flow for pedestrians, marking 2m distances for queuing and removing non-essential street furniture.

All our guidance for towns and parishes can be found on our [Social Distancing web pages](https://www.babergh.gov.uk/features/our-covid-19-response/social-distancing/) which also include a range of information, guidance, and advice for the reopening of shops, businesses and public spaces.

These pages will be updated regularly with any new guidance released by Government.

A dedicated email address is available for town and parish clerks for any queries about introducing social distancing measures: [socialdistancing@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:socialdistancing@baberghmidsuffolk.gov.uk)

**Simultaneous Cabinet meeting - Tuesday 9 June**

With likely attendance of over 70 members and officers at the next simultaneous Cabinet meeting, meeting invites will be sent to the Cabinet, Chairs of the Overview and Scrutiny Committees and Group Leaders in the first instance to help reduce technical issues.

**Business Grant update**  
  
The Small Business and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants have now been paid to almost 3,500 businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk accounting for almost 86% of our grant funding allocation. The grants are still open for applications and any businesses who believe they are eligible can apply by completing the simple online application form which is accessible on our website. [Find out more](https://midsuffolk.us15.list-manage.com/track/click?u=b92522d28bbfbe421813f5565&id=418a2c8fd1&e=8c04f77398)