

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS MIKE NORRIS & STEVE PHILLIPS REPORT TO CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL 22ND FEBRUARY 2021

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk: Regular bulletins are being 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 via the Suffolk County Council website under Suffolk CoronaWatch Bulletin. An update on the vaccine rollout can be found on the SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website.

Additional Restrictions Grant reopens for businesses in Mid Suffolk: Business owners in Mid Suffolk are being urged to explore the range of Covid-19 support grants open to support them through the current national lockdown. Further details are available on the Mid Suffolk District Council website.

New Year, New Homes: Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have invested more than £40m buying 250 new homes for low-income house-hunters. This multi-million-pound investment in social housing will see new properties added to their existing council house stock of more than 6,000 homes, or made available to buy as shared ownership homes – helping low-income families onto the first rung of the property ladder.

Stowmarket Arts Centre gets major boost: Ambitions for Stowmarket to become a hub for arts and culture took a major step forward recently, following Councillors unanimously giving the go-ahead to lease the former Natwest Bank building at 11 Market Place, Stowmarket, to the John Peel Centre.

Garden waste collections suspended until further notice: Garden waste (brown bin) collections have been suspended from Monday 11 January 2021 until further notice. This is to enable the crews to prioritise essential waste collections, such as the collection of refuse, recycling and clinical waste. Future invoices will be adjusted to compensate for this period of non-collection.

New service to support residents to live independently and safely in their homes: Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils' 'Independent Living Service' has been developed to help improve the quality of life of the districts' most vulnerable adults, young people and children. Further details are available on the Mid Suffolk District Council website.

Pledge to tackle anti-semitism: The nation recently marked Holocaust Memorial Day – and both Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have strengthened their commitment to tackling anti-semitism by agreeing to support the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance (IHRA) guidelines, providing reassurance to the districts' Jewish community that this form of crime is taken very seriously, and that they will do everything in their power to tackle it.

Census 2021 will provide a snapshot of modern society: Households across both districts will soon be asked to take part in Census 2021. The census is a once-in-a-decade survey that gives the Office for National Statistics the most accurate estimate of all the people and households in England and Wales. It has been carried out every decade since 1801 (except for 1941).

New recycling campaign aims to get Suffolk's recycling right: Every year, more than 10,000 tonnes (1 in 5 lorries worth) of recycling from Suffolk homes is rejected. This is due to residents placing the wrong items in their recycling bins. A new campaign 'Together we can get our recycling right' has been launched by the Suffolk Waste Partnership to tackle the problem.

Vehicle banners encourage Suffolk to be food and freezer savvy: Waste and recycling vehicles in Suffolk are now displaying new artwork to help deliver the food savvy message and cut food waste across the county. Over 50,000 tonnes of food, the equivalent of around £730 per household on average, gets thrown away in Suffolk every year.

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