MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCIL REPORT TO CREETING ST MARY PARISH COUNCIL 18TH JANUARY 2022

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk. Thank you to everyone who has helped to support the Covid-19 response, which has seen the Government revert to Plan B and our NHS colleagues ramping up the vaccination rollout in a race against time to combat the spread of the Omicron variant. We await further information from the Government regarding the further additional financial support for businesses, so we can distribute funds to those eligible across our districts as soon as possible. We also continue to provide regular bulletins giving a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk, along with case numbers and 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.

Mid Suffolk and Babergh leaders offer thanks and urge residents to get boosted now. The leaders of Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils, Cllr Suzie Morley and Cllr John Ward, are amongst Suffolk public sector leaders sending a joint message to Suffolk residents.

Blueprint for districts' future development to progress. Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have welcomed a decision by Planning Inspectors to allow work on their Joint Local Plan to continue – meaning the councils can ensure the right developments happen in the right places at the right time.

Work begins on carbon-cutting solar carport schemes. Works have begun on installing solar carports which will help power and slash the carbon emissions of two council-owned leisure centres - as part of council plans to tackle climate change.

Freeport East passes major milestone. Mid Suffolk District Council has welcomed news that Gateway 14, near Stowmarket, has officially been designated as a tax site as part of Freeport East.

Scheme to support new small businesses marks successful six months. A pilot scheme to support small businesses in Mid Suffolk and Babergh has been hailed a success as it reaches its six-month milestone.

Councils urge National Highways to 'unblock Copdock'. Mid Suffolk and Babergh District Councils have submitted a joint response to a consultation by National Highways on proposed improvements to the Copdock Interchange on the A14 – urging the creation of a new link road to the A12 to keep business traffic flowing freely.

Eight new affordable homes in Needham Market. Eight new homes in Needham Market can now open their doors to families as the Chambers Green development on the former MSDC offices site in Needham Market continues to expand.

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