

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT for JUNE–SEPTEMBER 2022 to STUSTON'S PARISH MEETING on 20 OCTOBER 2022

JUNE

Councils' commercial property arm makes £6m profit in 2021/22

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property company CIFCO made a £6m profit last year – generating £3.75m in net income for the councils to plough back into services, according to a report published this week. [More information](#) (20-Jun)

First occupier confirmed at Gateway 14

Gateway 14 Ltd, wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council, has exchanged conditional contracts to develop a distribution unit with home, garden and leisure products retailer The Range. [More information](#) (29-Jun)

Helping local communities to tackle the climate emergency

A £150,000 fund has been opened to applications from not-for-profit organisations looking to deliver community-based carbon reduction projects in Suffolk. [More information](#) (29-Jun)

Chance to help shape councils' final parking strategy

Residents, businesses, and visitors are being invited to have their say on Babergh and Mid Suffolk's parking strategy for the next 20 years. [More information](#) (17-Jun)

Councils urge 'joined-up thinking' over energy infrastructure in the east

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are calling for an urgent government review of the number and scale of 'potentially devastating' energy infrastructure projects for local communities. [More information](#) (16-Jun)

Changes to Building Regulations

Building Regulations changed on June 15. These amendments have been billed as the biggest changes to building regulations for over 30 years and will have significant impact on those planning building works after this date. [More information](#) (15-Jun)

JULY

Blueprint for the future of social housing approved

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved their blueprint for the future of social housing in our districts. It will ensure that our tenants have good quality and sustainable homes, in safe neighbourhoods. [More information](#) (7-Jul)

Nominations now OPEN for the Innovations Awards

Our Innovation Awards showcase the talent, forward-thinking and innovation in business across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. This can be anything from using new

ways to communicate with customers, delivering new services, launching new products, or integrating new, cutting-edge technology. There are nine free-to-enter categories covering a range of sectors. [More information](#) (14-Jul)

Energy Rebate scheme to be extended

Residents in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who have been unable to access financial support through the Council Tax Energy Rebate Scheme may now be able to do so through a discretionary fund. [More information](#) (11-Jul)

Wildflowers to spring up across Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Our councils are trialling wildflower verges across our districts, as part of efforts to tackle biodiversity and climate change. [More information](#) (22-Jul)

£450,000 more funding for community causes now available

Community groups across Babergh and Mid Suffolk can now bid for a share of £450,000 to improve their neighbourhoods, thanks to the two new Community Development Grants. [More information](#) (22-Jul)

Supporting our districts through recent extreme temperatures

Steps were put in place last month to support residents across Babergh and Mid during extreme weather conditions, with the first ever heat-related red weather warning issued for the county. [More information](#) (15-Jul)

Councils take action to help restore empty homes into family homes

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils' new Empty Homes Policy is set to reduce the number of long-term empty properties in the districts. There are currently over 1000 empty properties across the districts which, once restored, will help ease the growing demand for homes for residents. [More information](#) (7-Jul)

Councils lead the way towards sustainable travel vision

Babergh and Mid Suffolk are taking the next step towards a sustainable travel solution, aiming to increase active travel and help tackle climate change. [More information](#) (22-Jul)

Summer holiday activities to support families over the school break

An array of activities are being staged during the summer holidays to provide entertainment and support to families across Babergh and Mid Suffolk. From adventure days to swimming, cooking classes to woodwork there is something to keep everyone occupied and active over the summer holidays thanks to Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and partners. [More information](#) (18-Jul)

Milestone reached on Chambers Green Development

The completion of the first phase development at Chambers Green in Needham Market has been marked by councillors and representatives from Mid Suffolk Growth. [More information](#) (20-Jul)

New community street art mural coming to Stowmarket

A new mural, painted by Stowmarket's students and designed by talented local artist, is coming to the hoardings at the town's recreation ground.

Mid Suffolk District Council and Pentaco Construction have joined forces with local illustrator and art lecturer Joel Millerchip to organise an art project inviting everyone to add their input to a new mural and leave a 'more meaningful mark' in their community at Stowmarket's free Family Fun Day on Friday 5 August. [More information](#) (22-Jul)

AUGUST

How your council can help you with the cost of living

Support packages to combat the cost of living, energy bills and council tax are all available through Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, with residents urged to check they are receiving the support they are entitled to. [More information](#)

Councils set to lead the way in transforming tree planting for generations

Tree coverage across Babergh and Mid Suffolk is set to increase to help tackle biodiversity loss and climate change, after a pioneering council-commissioned tree canopy survey identified key planting locations and significant benefits. [More information](#) (25-Aug)

New parents again invited to apply for a free tree

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is open once again for 2022 applications. [More information](#) (4-Aug)

Don't lose your vote – residents across the districts urged to check their voter registration details

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have started the Annual Canvass of Electors and are asking residents to check the electoral registration details for everyone eligible to vote at their address. [More information](#) (8-Aug)

Find out 'What's Next for Stowmarket' at public exhibition

A new pop-up exhibition coming to Stowmarket from Thursday 22 September to Saturday 24 September at the town's John Peel Centre will showcase a range of projects and proposals that will shape the future of the town. [More information](#) (18-Aug)

...including Stowmarket wellbeing and leisure hub

Residents, community groups and sports clubs are being invited to have their say on the development of plans for new leisure, health and wellbeing facilities in Stowmarket. [More information](#) (3-Aug)

Switch onto the Digital Skills Programme for businesses

Business owners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk can take advantage of free workshops to help boost their confidence online by accessing the Councils' Digital Skills Programme. [More information](#) (4-Aug)

Simple scheme to buy solar panels returns for Suffolk residents

Solar Together Suffolk, a group-buying scheme which has helped over 1,500 homes in Suffolk to install solar panels and batteries, is now open for new registrations. [More information](#) (22-Aug)

Suffolk Waste Partnership backs national campaign to raise awareness of safe battery disposal

Suffolk Waste Partnership is backing a nationwide campaign urging people to safely dispose of old batteries in a bid to avoid starting fires in refuse vehicles and waste processing facilities. [More information](#) (18-Aug)

Putting Suffolk on the big screen

Babergh and Mid Suffolk leaders have joined colleagues from across the county to agree steps to continue to attract filmmakers to the region – putting Suffolk on the big screen and bringing in millions to the local economy. [More information](#) (2-Aug)

Councils awarded £60k for gum busting clean up

West Suffolk Council and Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are among the first of 40 council areas to receive cash from chewing gum manufacturers to help remove gum from the street. [More information](#) (10-Aug)

SEPTEMBER

The death of Her Majesty the Queen

Thank you to all our towns and parishes who helped residents to pay tribute to Her Majesty the Queen and send condolences to the Royal family. We recognise the effort behind the scenes in supporting our communities across our districts. Thanks in particular to our Town Council colleagues, who had the additional responsibility of staging the local proclamations of the reign of King Charles III.

[Condolences to the Royal family from our councils](#)

[More information on the historic proclamations that took place across our districts](#)

Councils set out parking strategy for the next 20 years

Supporting the needs of local trade and residents, while putting the brakes on climate change – Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have set out their plans for improved parking provision for the next 20 years. [More information](#) (27-Sep)

Bird flu outbreak

Information on the recent bird flu outbreak in Suffolk. [More information](#) (latest update 5-Oct)

Latest CIL funding sees thousands ploughed back into communities

More than £420,000 in developer contributions is to be ploughed back into communities – funding a study into Thurston railway station and improved play equipment and bus facilities for villages. [More information](#) (5-Sep)

A chance to stand for what you believe in

Residents across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being encouraged to consider adding their name to the ballot and stand as a district councillor next May.

(Although this news release relates to an information event that took place on 29 September there is still plenty of time for would-be councillors to register their interest.) [More information](#) (2-Sep)

What's Next for Stowmarket?

Almost 350 residents, businesses and community groups attended the John Peel Centre for our public exhibition to find out more about major projects underway in Stowmarket. The event was coordinated by the Stowmarket Vision Group which includes Mid Suffolk District Council, alongside partners including Stowmarket Town Council, the John Peel Centre, Old Fox Yard, the National Food Museum and others. [Find out more about the projects.](#)

Households urged to get Food Savvy and plan ahead to save money and avoid waste

As the cost of living continues to bite a new campaign has been launched in Suffolk to help families reduce food waste and save money. [More information](#) (7-Sep)

David Burn