

## District Councillors report to 4<sup>th</sup> September 2021

August is traditionally that month when everyone is on holiday but MSDC continues with its work. There doesn't seem to be any let up in issues and ongoing commitments of the Council.

### Covid-19

August saw us reach the end of the Government's roadmap out of lockdown, however the Council's commitments to support the district's recovery continues. 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.

An update on the vaccine roll out can be found on the SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website.

MSDC continues to play its 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 communities and businesses. More information can be found on the council website.

### Statement regarding Afghan refugees

August also saw the Government announce its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort. There is a full statement on the MSDC website.

Babergh and MSDC – calls for talks for devolution talks with government.

Our leaders have written to the Secretary of State to say they welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible evolution deal for Suffolk. We await that outcome.

### Green light for Gateway 14

Initial Plans, with conditions, were approved this month for Gateway 14 – Stowmarket's £2.45 million square foot, innovation, business and logistics park.

### Needham Market

Regeneration of the old MSDC Offices now have show homes available for potential buyers. It is part of the council's multi-million investment in the town.

### Local Energy Showcase

Businesses and community organisations are being urged to tackle climate change by joining Suffolk's first ever showcase event celebrating sustainability and green energy. Businesses are encouraged to take part and tickets are free for the event on 21 – 22<sup>nd</sup> October at Wherstead Park so please check MSDC website to register.

### Summer events planned for residents and visitors

A host of events are taking place across the district to welcome visitors back to the high street after the lifting of Covid restrictions. Again check the website.

### Green Oasis

Almost three acres of land near Stowmarket has been bought by MSDC to provide a green oasis for the town as part of the Council's biodiversity plans.

### Work begins on Woolpit Community car park

Although not directly applicable to our ward this demonstrates that funding is available and the much needed space at Woolpit to enable the Health Centre to expand has begun.

### 2021 Annual Canvass continues

Residents are encouraged to update their household details on line.

### Cycling

Saturday October the 9<sup>th</sup> is the day the Woman's international Tour starts in Haverhill and finishes in Felixstowe.

Councillor Mrs Kathie Guthrie