

DRAFT

STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL

Minutes of the meeting held Thursday 18 November 2021, 7.30pm at Stoke Ash Village Hall

Present: Cllrs P Morris (Chairman), M Fleming, Mrs V Lane, G Leggett, Mrs C Maisey, R Maisey, T Pulham and G Tancred. District Cllr D Burn, County Cllr A Stringer, Mr P Isbell, Chief Planning Officer at MSDC and 14 members of the public

1. **Apologies for absence** were received from Cllr R Kember. Mrs P Cooke and Mr J Snell.

2. **To receive declarations of interest relating to items on the agenda**

Item 6.2 – Cllr P Morris – pecuniary interest

3. **PUBLIC FORUM:** to receive the following reports:

Members unanimously agreed to bring forward the Parishioners and Public section:

Parishioners and Public

Hill Farm, Huggins Lane – DC/21/06054 - Mr Philip Isbell, Chief Planning Officer at MSDC had been invited to attend the meeting by District Cllr D Burn. Mr Isbell stated he was in attendance to assist on any technical issues, at this stage the Planning Dept retained an open mind on the application Mr Isbell stated this was an application to determine whether the District Council should be involved in determining the change of use.

The Government granted permitted development rights, in the case of this application for flexible use. The District Council would need to look at the test the Government had set to ensure permitted development conditions had been met. This required a response from the District Council within 56 days.

Mr Isbell stated the Parish Council and parishioners in their response should focus attention on Transport, Highways and Noise contamination:

The Chairman declared a pecuniary interest and joined the public. The Vice Chairman Cllr Pulham took over the Chair.

Parishioner (P) - The unsuitability of the road, access and use by dog walkers was raised.

PI: a highway in multiple use, ie walking on the road, there would need to be evidence of pedestrian safety should there be an increase in the volume of traffic on the road due to the change of use. MSDC would need to consult County Highways on that aspect if a material increase was anticipated, ie 10% plus as well as any significant impact on the highway network as a result of the development. The impact could be mitigated if cost effective.

Any objection from County Highways would need to prove severe impact in terms of highway safety, the bar was set very high, there would need to be previous data.

P: re. Multiple use highway – the footpath from Stoke Hall Farm became a bridleway and was in use by horse riders.

P: in terms of mitigating the highway aspect, land can only be mitigated by a landowner. Huggins Lane could not be mitigated as the adjoining land was in other ownership.

Noise impact on the village was raised.

PI: noise impact from dance hall - the planning authority would take associated noise into consideration, ie traffic, car doors, talking etc.

A query was raised regarding the impact on the 56 day response from MSDC if the application was called in.

PI – the 56 days commenced at validation.

P: Asked for advice on responses to ensure they were heard by MSDC.

PI: Responses should concentrate as above: Transport, Highways and Noise contamination.

P: the footpath through the site had been re-directed to the front between the car park and building. The footpath at the back of the building was permissive. There was a oneway system in place, vehicles would need to drive across the footpath

Cllr TP: There appeared to be no members of the public present in connection with Hill Farm.

P: queried why the original application had been withdrawn.

PI: the previous application had applied for something not entitled to be within permitted development use and as a result the applicant had been advised to withdraw the application. A dance hall sits within D2.

P: expressed confusion by the application process, was a wedding venue now a dance hall?

P: What would be allowed if a dance hall was approved?

PI: the Permitted Development would expect a dance hall, it would not include a wedding venue.

P: the building was not suitable.

P: concerned over traffic and access.

V Chairman: Stressed comments should be re-submitted to MSDC Planning focusing on the criteria outlined by PI.

P: Thwaite Rd, Thorndon : residents with rear gardens backing onto the land were experiencing glampers trespassing into their rear gardens, mainly due to lack of information for visitors. The noise level assessed by the Environmental Officer did not appear to be defined in the NPPF. The noise impact on residents was foreseeable and would change depending on the time of day and weather conditions.

P: ask Parish Council to note number of households present. Parishioner had counted 18. Had there been an assessment of emergency services access.

PI: Highways and Transport would cover that issue broadly. Building Control would look at the suitability of the building.

Cllr GT: the NPPF states tranquil areas should be identified and protected and noise levels should not exceed 34 decibels. If noise exceeded that level how would that be dealt with?

PI: Environmental Health would look at any noise breaches and would monitor.

P: Presented his written comments to the meeting - covering the condition of the existing structure which was totally unsuitable and would involve the need for a new build, the major disruption, inconvenience and noise that would be imposed upon the village, the severe impact on the immediate and surrounding highway. The PC was urged to consider the points raised at the meeting and to vote against the application and do all in its power to prevent it coming to fruition.

Thorndon: raised safety aspect of people trespassing on neighbouring land.

Advised meeting to give MSDC Planning sufficient details to provide power to impose need for a full planning application.

PI: the applicant was entitled to the benefit of the doubt.

Cllr GL: In 2017 a similar application was granted to Marsh Farm, Palgrave. Palgrave village voted against the application. What was the situation there, what were the effects re. noise and traffic and any repercussions?

District Cllr DB: he understood the only concern was the erection of small notice boards indicating direction of venue.

P: the application did not include the change of use of building for car restoration next to the car park.

Response: It was understood the car restoration business had now moved from the site.

PI: reiterated that comments to MSDC should focus on the criteria mentioned earlier in the meeting.

Cllr TP: thanked PI for his time, the guidance offered had been of much help to the PC and parishioners.

PI left the meeting

Meeting closed to the public 8.35pm - Cllr Morris left the room

Members unanimously agreed item 6.2 on the agenda was brought forward

6.2. DC/21/06054: Hill Farm, Huggins Lane, Stoke Ash – application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed: Change of use of Agricultural Buildings to a flexible use within Storage or Distribution (Class B8) Hotels (Class C1), Commercial/Business Service (Class E) uses previously classified as Assembly and Leisure (Class D2), Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3; Class R - change of use of agricultural barn to dance hall

Cllr Pulham asked for comments from councillors, the following were raised:

Noise impact on the village particularly nearby residents

Unsuitable single track access with no passing places

Noise level would need to be tested

Multiple concerns: noise a major aspect, accessibility for emergency services not considered, potential for drug abuse and dealing, owners absent so open to misuse. Access/exit to A140.

Following discussion of items raised a proposal to recommend refusal was put forward by Cllr R Maisey, seconded Cllr Mrs Maisey and unanimously agreed.

A parish council working group meeting would be held on 25 November 2021 to prepare the parish council response based on the above.

District Cllr Burn stated if the Planning Officer was minded to reject the application he would not ask for the application to be called in for determination by Committee. Parish Councillors agreed with Cllr Burn's suggestion.

Cllr Burn stated there was an appeal process, if so it would be for MSDC to defend its dismissal. If an appeal was refused the applicant would have the opportunity to try another route, that could be a full planning application.

Cllr Burn urged the parish council to re-submit its comments.

8.55pm Cllr Morris returned to the meeting and took the Chair

3. PUBLIC FORUM continued

Police – report available online at <http://suffolk.police.uk>. No queries were raised.

County Councillor – Cllr Stringer presented his written report – copy attached to the Minutes below. Items raised included the cancellation of the Otley College student buses. Cllr Stringer stated the College had given an explanation, County were not happy with that, there was no solution as yet but County were pursuing it with the College.

District Councillor – Cllr Burn’s written report had been circulated. No queries were raised.

Cllr Burn left the meeting

Parishioners and Public

A parishioner queried the Parish Council position regarding a defibrillator in Stoke Ash. The Chairman stated members had considered this at length and had decided to arrange CPR training in the village. However if the community wished to look into funding a defibrillator it was hoped they could rely on Parish Council support. A Thwaite parishioner had offered to donate a defibrillator to Thwaite.

4. To consider for approval Minutes of the Parish Council meeting held 21 October 2021

Cllr Mrs Maisey proposed adoption of the Minutes, seconded Cllr Pulham and unanimously agreed.

5. Matters arising from the Minutes for report

May 2019	Stoke Ash PC vacancy	Vacancy reported in parish magazine.
17.5.18	Damaged road signs A140	Reported via Suffolk CC Highways website reporting tool. Action pending.
17.5.18	Storage of PC documents at Ipswich Record Office	TP to meet with Record Office.
17.5.18	Thwaite Comm Projects St George’s Hall St George’s Bring & Buy Sale Mark allotment boundaries and pathways A future joint Thwaite/SACommunity Hall St George’s Hall woodwork and	Parishioners’ questionnaire on future of Hall TP/GL Deferred due to lockdown - RK Working Group Obtain Stoke Ash VH committee view. MF.
18.3.21	quinennial inspection	GL/TP
18.3.21	Use of allotments – agreement not to	Working Group
19.8.21	cultivate.	Working Group progressing
19.8.21	Review Tenancy Agreements/Rent Advertise allotment availability	Complete
15/7/21	Grit Bins: Replace small bin at A140 junction opposite primary school with larger bin from opposite PO. Small bin to be moved to PO. Replace grit in bins at : A140/Church Lane, opposite Stoke Hall, Huggins Lane/Roman Way, SA Street triangle(Deadmans Lane), A140/The Street The Street, SA at VH – request grit refill and that bin is added to Suffolk CC list on grounds the road is low, next to water course, road floods and freezes over	TP/GL progressing Complete Complete
15/11/18	PIIP’s – identify items of community expenditure from Cil award. Parishioners views on joint village hall or retain separate halls Ditch clearance quotation– Church Lane, Thwaite Hardstanding at OSR	Deferred pending survey TP obtaining quotation TP/GL to obtain quotation

	Stoke Ash Village Sign circular Seat	GL
30.5.19	Monitor road edge – The Street, SA	All councillors. Monitoring extended to both parishes.
18.7.19	Play equipment/play surface grant funding Remove lower tree branches Action following Annual Inspection	Pursue grant funding with MSDC – Finance Group PM
18.7.19	Suffolk CC Our Water Project	Working Group to meet Mr Locksmith, Suffolk CC to progress– TP, GT, PM, DM, CM GL. Deferred due to lockdown.
16.1.20	Lunch Club Funding	GL pursuing with MSDC
18.6.20	Review Emergency Plan	MF, GL, TP & RK
17.12.20	Roman Way – parking on public grassed areas. 2 options put forward – barriers or parking spaces. Layby – The Street. Suffolk CC two options – double yellow lines at pinch point or solid white line at road edge	PC suggested Grassguards on verges. Awaiting MSDC response Windscreen note for vehicles obstructing road width - complete
19/8/21	CPR training and Thwaite Defibrillator	Investigate CPR training
21/10/21	Xmas Event preparations	GT

6. To consider Planning Applications for recommendation to MSDC

1. DC/21/05827: Land adjacent to The White Horse Inn, Ipswich Road, Stoke Ash – full planning application for change of use of land for the stationing of up to 5 self-contained shepherds huts and creation of pond. Councillors considered the application to be well thought out and in keeping with the current business. Cllr Pulham proposed a recommendation of support, seconded Cllr Leggett and unanimously agreed
2. DC/21/06054: Hill Farm, Huggins Lane, Stoke Ash – application to determine if Prior Approval is required for a proposed: Change of use of Agricultural Buildings to a flexible use within Storage or Distribution (Class B8) Hotels (Class C1), Commercial/Business Service (Class E) uses previously classified as Assembly and Leisure (Class D2), Town & Country Planning (General Permitted Development) (England) Order 2015 as amended Schedule 2, Part 3; Class R - change of use of agricultural barn to dance hall – see above.

7. **Planning Decisions received from MSDC** – none received

8. **Planning correspondence** - none

9. **Proposed Affordable Housing Scheme** – no report

10. To consider a defibrillator for Thwaite parish and CPR community training

Defibrillator - Item deferred pending further discussion with the defibrillator owner. In the meantime Cllrs Mrs C and R Maisey stated they would provide the defibrillator cabinet and Thwaite Projects Group would cover maintenance costs. The meeting recorded thanks to Cllrs Mrs C and R Maisey. CPR training – deferred to next meeting.

11. **Neighbourhood Watch report** – Cllr Mrs Lane was pleased to record no crimes had been reported.

12. MSDC Cil Award:

1. Play Equipment – Stoke Ash Village Hall playing field – deferred pending VH Committee meeting.
2. Ditch Clearance – Church Lane, Thwaite – to consider quotation/s. Deferred.

3. Hardstanding next Old School Room, Thwaite – to consider quotation/s. Deferred.
4. Stoke Ash Village Sign – report on circular seat. Deferred.

13. Thwaite Community Projects Group

1. Report on allotment review:
 - (i) Map delineating plots and pathways – progressing.
 - (ii) To confirm Rent Review and Tenancy Agreement. The Group stated it was intended that agreements would not be offered this year, October 2021 – October 2022 pending re-letting of all plots for cultivation only and not for use as grassed areas or garden extensions.
 - (iii) Lettings – deferred pending above.
2. Report on St George’s Hall inspection and woodwork – deferred.
3. Report on St George’s Hall village questionnaire – deferred.
4. Any other items for report – clarification of an E.on invoice re. OSR was required.

14. Lunch Club report

Cllr Leggett reported 29 parishioners had attended the last lunch. It was hoped there would be at least 30 attending the next lunch which would be the annual Christmas Lunch.

15. Stoke Ash VH Play and Exercise equipment report

1. To consider MSDC annual play inspection report and cost of inspection – deferred.

16. Wash Lane report – no report.

17. Stoke Ash – Parking on Roman Way grass verges update – deferred.

18. Stoke Ash & Thwaite Xmas Event report

Cllr Tancred reported £150 had been spent so far on arrangements for the event. A leaflet advertising the event had been produced. The evenings would include music from the trailer, carol singing in the barn and St George’s. Food, drink, mulled wine and mince pies provided by the White Horse at Stoke Ash. The barn and St George’s would be decorated. Father Christmas would ride on the trailer and there would be a nativity dress competition with prize.

The Chairman opened the meeting to the public for a parishioner comment

A parishioner queried why it was a Christian event which it did not appear to be inclusive for all and another parishioner queried why it was being held in a barn at Stoke Ash and not the Village Hall. The Chairman stated the event was being celebrated in the traditional manner and all were invited. Cllr Tancred stated the barn was being used as numbers would not be restricted at that venue and more car parking was available. The Chairman thanked Cllr Tancred for his report and his work on arrangements so far.

Meeting closed to the public

19. Christmas Tree Festival, Stoke Ash - to consider Parish Council participation

Members agreed to take part in the event. The Chairman would inform the Churchwarden. Cllr Leggett offered to provide the Christmas Tree.

20. Finance

1. To consider s.137 donation requests

Headway Suffolk – Cllr Mrs Maisey proposed a donation of £30.00, seconded Cllr Mrs Lane and agreed.

2. Accounts for Payment

Date	Payee	Purchase/Service	Amount	Vat	Total	Agreed/Decld	Ch no.
18/11/21	MSDC	Play Equipment Inspection annual fee	£50.54	£10.11	£60.65	Agreed	100508
18/11/21	Clerk	Sal-expen Oct-Nov 2021	£266.50	-	£266.50	Agreed	100509
18/11/21	RBL	Parish Council Wreath	£47.50	-	£47.50	Agreed	100510

Cllr Leggett proposed payment of the above accounts, seconded Cllr Tancred and agreed.

3. Finance Report including report on draft budget and precept proposals 2022-23

The draft budget and precept proposal 2022-23 had been circulated prior to the meeting. Cllr Pulham went through the figures produced. Keeping expenditure to a similar level to last year, with the exception of contingency, an increase to allow for further village events, ie Easter, the Platinum Jubilee celebrations and Christmas and an increase in Community Funds to allow for such items as play equipment expenditure the proposed precept put forward was £6911, a slight decrease on last on last year. Members thanked the working group for their work preparing the figures. These would be considered further for decision at the next meeting.

21. To consider for adoption the following policy documents:

1. Asset Register
2. Standing Orders 2021-22
3. Financial Regulations 2021-22
4. QDPR – Subject Access Request

The above documents had been circulated prior to the meeting, no queries were raised. Cllr R Maisey proposed adoption of the above documents 1 – 4, seconded Cllr Pulham and unanimously agreed.

22. **Platinum Celebrations 2022** – report from Working Group - deferred.
23. **Clerk’s report/correspondence** – no queries were raised re. items circulated prior to the meeting.
24. **Chairman’s report**

The Chairman stated for many years Cllr Fleming had been a parish councillor and member and chairman of the Village Hall Committee. Cllr Fleming had now decided to step down from both roles. On behalf of the Council and community the Chairman thanked Cllr Fleming for all his efforts over the years, this had been very much appreciated.

There were now 2 parish council vacancies in Stoke Ash and a vacancy on the village hall committee.

25. **Any other business for information exchange/agenda requests** – none.
26. **Date of next meeting: Thursday 16 December 2021, 7.30pm at the Village Hall, Stoke Ash**

Meeting closed: 9.55pm

Signed:

Chairman

Date:

Summary of Action Points

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21/10/21	Xmas Event preparations	GT
18/11/21	Christmas tree festival, Stoke Ash	PC to take part. Inform Church Warden –PM Provide Christmas tree -GL

County Councillor Report – November 2021

COVID-19

From Monday 1 November, Suffolk will therefore become an ‘enhanced response area’ (ERA) for up to five weeks. This approach has already been used in other parts of the country to help reduce the rate of COVID-19 transmission within the community and is also being taken in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough at the same time.

To help reduce the spread, residents in Suffolk are now being encouraged to:

- Get fully vaccinated and your booster when it’s due
- Wash your hands regularly with soap and water
- Always wear a face covering in crowded areas
- Ventilate indoor spaces
- Get tested regularly and stay at home if you feel unwell

Latest SCC information is available here: <https://www.suffolk.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>

Latest Government advice is available here: www.gov.uk/coronavirus

Full Council – Motion and Decisions

The Suffolk County Council met for a Full Council meeting on the 21st October 2021. Our Group proposed a motion to support the Local Electricity Bill, to help proportion local energy supplier’s costs, making local electricity cheaper and more reliable. The motion was passed unanimously. Details of the motion can be found here: <https://powerforpeople.org.uk/local-electricity-bill-briefing-for-councillors>

The Conservatives forwarded a motion to condemn Insulate Britain, which was passed with the following vote: 41 For, 9 Against, 7 Abstained.

Cabinet Meeting – 12th October

On the 12th October, the Cabinet and Councillors met to discuss the following two matters: Recommendations highlighted in the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21, and to vote on submitting the Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), in relation to the Council’s Bus Back Better Strategy. Summary of the main decisions are below:

1. The Cabinet accepted the Suffolk Local Access Forum Annual Report 2020/21 and noted the report’s recommendations and the action that the Council was taking to address the recommendations.

2. The Cabinet acknowledged and agreed to the headline asks and order of costs contained in the proposed Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP), as set out in the report.
3. The Cabinet delegated final development, including costings, and the submission of the BSIP, to the Executive Director for Growth, Highways and Infrastructure, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Economic Development, Transport Strategy and Waste.
4. The Cabinet noted that a further Cabinet paper on the Enhanced Partnership Arrangements would be provided prior to its submission in March 2022.
5. Full Cabinet Reports can be viewed here:
[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

Suffolk Schools to Reintroduce Face Coverings

On Wednesday 20th October, the Directors of Public Health, and Children and Young People Services, released a statement notifying us that face coverings are to be reintroduced into schools from 1st November. This is due to the rising COVID cases in Suffolk, and therefore staff and students will have to wear face coverings in communal areas, outside of the classroom, unless exempt for medical reasons. Visitation will also be restricted to essential visits. A further review on its effectiveness will commence 15th November. See Cllr Simon Harley, our Group's Public Health Spokesperson's comments on the decision at <https://suffolkgli.wordpress.com/2021/10/26/gli-public-health-spokespersons-warning-over-winter-response-to-reintroduction-of-covid-measures/>

Sizewell C: Government Announce Support & New Funding Strategy

On the 15th October, Suffolk County Council announced their support for Sizewell C, and are taking up 'important concerns' to the Secretary of State. Our Group remains firmly against the project, believing there has been a political underestimation, and that the people of Suffolk are being sold short by the Administration's inability to face the reality of the situation.

In addition, on 26th October, Business and Energy Secretary, Kwasi Kwarteng, announced a new government strategy for funding the nuclear power project in Sizewell. The project so far has been heavily contentious, suffering from delays and planning concerns, as well as increasing costs.

The Government has announced a Regulated Asset Base funding plan – a strategy that aims to retain investors, and deal with overflowing expenses by shifting the costs of the project onto the consumer - the British public. In the form of a taxpayer subsidy, the Government would pay the costs of the project to the developers that investors deem too risky to commit further.

Our Group has rejected this strategy, and recommends that the Government reconsiders before it puts the burden of cost onto our local communities, and instead looks into investing in cleaner, cheaper, and quicker forms of renewable energy available to Suffolk.

Bus Back Better: Bus Service Improvement Plan (BSIP) Approved

The Cabinet approved the new Bus Service Improvement Plan, as part of their new £50m Bus Back Better strategy – aimed at rejuvenating Suffolk's bus service, in particular isolated areas of rural Suffolk. Our Group supports the essential commitment needed to help re-connect rural communities.

Bus Back Better aims at making bus services cheaper, more reliable, and carbon efficient. All proposals of the BSIP that were passed by Cabinet can be viewed here:

[https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=\(12-10-2021\),%20The%20Cabinet](https://committeeminutes.suffolk.gov.uk/DocSetPage.aspx?MeetingTitle=(12-10-2021),%20The%20Cabinet)

Local Articles: Suffolk GLI's responses

Cllr Caroline Topping, our Group's Education Spokesperson's comment on the disproportionate exclusions of SEND and BAME students: [Suffolk school exclusions SEND and BAME concerns | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Andrew Stringer, Our Group Leader's comment on the Groups motion to support Local Electricity Bill: [Suffolk backing for groups and businesses to generate power | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Caroline Page, and **Cllr Annette Dunning**, our Group's Spokesperson for Achieving Net Zero Carbon's comments on the Sizewell C update and support by Conservatives: [Sizewell C: How developer cash will be spent | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Keith Welham, our Group's Highways, Public Transport and Rural Services Spokesperson's comments on the Bus Back Better Strategy approved by Cabinet: [Suffolk County Council to submit £50m bus improvement bid | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Andrew Stringer, our Group Leader's comments on the Freight Industry Replacing Electric Trains with Diesel due to the Energy Prices: [Diesels replace electric trains on Freightliner services | East Anglian Daily Times \(eadt.co.uk\)](#)

Cllr Simon Harley, Our Group's Public Health and Biosecurity Spokesperson's comments on the Reintroduction of Face Coverings in Suffolk Schools: [GLI Public Health Spokesperson's Warning Over Winter – Response to Reintroduction of COVID Measures – Suffolk Green, Liberal Democrat and Independent Group \(wordpress.com\)](#)

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT TO STOKE ASH & THWAITE PARISH COUNCIL ON 18 NOVEMBER 2021

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

At Public Health Suffolk's request the government recently designated Suffolk as an 'enhanced response area', recognising the high incidence of Covid cases within the past month or two [Read the full story](#). The ERA designation lasts for up to five weeks and brings additional support and funding to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure. Every home in the county will receive a leaflet reminding them of the simple steps they can take to reduce the spread of the virus. This will be supported by radio ads, social media promotion and will appear on billboards across Suffolk. We are also launching a fun campaign aimed at a younger audience, encouraging people to think about the things they enjoy - such as a family dinner, or time out with friends – and how relatively small acts can help ensure they can continue safely this winter. Again, this will be supported in a range of ways, including across our social media. Do please look out for it and share with your own friends to help get the message out.

Work to continue on blueprint for districts' future development

Public examination of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan – the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts - has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow the councils further time to review its evidence. [Read the full story](#)

Feedback sought on future development in districts

Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils recently published their draft five-year housing land supply statements – outlining the anticipated supply of new homes between now and 2026. We are inviting comments on the robustness of the housing land supply information and evidence related to the delivery of sites by midday on Friday 17 December 2021. [Read the full story](#)

Residents have their say on name for Needham Lake's café and visitor centre

As work continues on the development of the new café and visitor centre at Needham Lake, Mid Suffolk District Council called on the community to help with selecting a name for it. [Read the full story](#) STOP PRESS: The most favoured option – Duck and Teapot – has now been announced.

Tree for Life scheme welcomes applications from new parents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2021 applications. The scheme, which benefits families, communities and the environment by boosting tree

coverage across our districts, is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree. [Read the full story](#)

£1.5m funding boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities

Town and Parish Councils across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received £1.5 million in neighbourhood CIL last month – paving the way for a range of vital community facilities and projects. [Read the full story](#)

Green light for further funding to support vital infrastructure in Mid Suffolk

In addition, £118,000 of CIL funding was allocated last month for community centre improvements and sports facilities in Debenham, Elmswell, Rickingham and Framsdon. [Read the full story](#)

David Burn