

DISTRICT COUNCILLOR'S REPORT for JANUARY 2022
to PALGRAVE PARISH COUNCIL'S MEETING
on 17 FEBRUARY 2022

Councils chosen for neighbourhood planning pilot

Together with Babergh, our districts, are among 11 areas nationwide to be chosen as part of a pilot scheme to boost participation in neighbourhood planning, being funded by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. [Read the full story](#)

Council tax freeze proposed but investment in recovery to continue

Mid Suffolk District Council is considering freezing its element of council tax this year – helping residents through post-pandemic recovery, while still investing in priority areas to improve quality of life. [Read the full story](#)

Update on Gateway 14

Gateway 14 is set to have a significant impact on the wider Mid Suffolk district as well as Stowmarket and surrounding villages - bringing in £75-250m per year and creating between 1,800 and 6,200 direct and indirect jobs.

In order to keep everyone updated on progress, a new quarterly bulletin has been launched to keep local residents, businesses and stakeholders fully informed. [Download the first Gateway 14 quarterly bulletin](#)

A warmer, energy efficient future secured for residents in low-income homes

Residents in low-income homes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk can look forward to a warmer, more energy efficient future thanks to £1.9m in Government funding. [Read the full story](#)

Omicron business grants available to hospitality and leisure businesses

Businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk that have been severely impacted by Omicron can now apply for a one-off grant payment through one of two Covid-19 support grants. **NOTE Application deadline is 18 February** [Read the full story](#).

Thurston byelection will be on 17 February

Polling day for the byelection in Thurston Ward, brought about by the resignation of Councillor Wendy Turner, will be on Thursday, 17 February. Cllr Turner shared the two-member ward with Conservative Cllr Harry Richardson. The seat is hotly contested, with Labour, Lib Dem, Green and Conservative candidates standing.

[Read the election page](#)

David Burn