

Mid Suffolk District Council freezes council tax but investment in recovery to continue

Mid Suffolk District Council has frozen 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. *[double-click the icon below to open the bulletin]*



G14_Quarterly
Update.pdf

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils respond to new 'County Deal'

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils welcomed news that Suffolk is one of nine counties invited to negotiate a ground-breaking devolution deal – bringing more control over areas such as transport, infrastructure and skills to the region. [Read the full story](#)

Thurston byelection was held on 17 February

Polling day for the byelection in Thurston Ward, brought about by the resignation of Green Party Councillor Wendy Turner, was last Thursday. Cllr Turner shared the two-member ward with Conservative Cllr Harry Richardson. The result was a resounding win for Austin Davies, the Green Party candidate, with 845 votes; the Conservative candidate polled 399 votes; and Lib Dems and Labour brought up the rear with 37 and 32 votes respectively. Turnout was 28%. The political balance of the council is therefore unchanged, with the administration and opposition still having 17 councillors each.

Switch onto a new Digital Skills Programme for businesses

Business owners in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who want to learn new or improve their digital skills can now access free courses as part of a new business support programme. [Read the full story](#)

A new bigger, better library for Needham Market!

Suffolk Libraries and Mid Suffolk District Council are excited to announce that the new Needham Market Library is now open. [Read the full story](#)

Nine new affordable homes in Botesdale for local residents

Nine affordable homes opened their doors to new households this month, following the completion of a new development in Botesdale. [Read the full story](#)

Bird Flu outbreak near Elmswell

The UK's Deputy Chief Veterinary Officer has confirmed highly pathogenic avian influenza (HPAI) H5N1, commonly known as bird flu, at a small holding near Elmswell. A 3km Protection Zone and a 10km Surveillance Zone have been put in place around the infected premise to limit the risk of the disease spreading.

All poultry keepers – whether commercial farmers or those with a small backyard flock – are required by law to house poultry, or otherwise, to keep them separate from wild birds. [Read the full story](#)

Since this story broke, we have been informed of further outbreaks more local to us, the largest being at the Gressingham duck operation near Redgrave; there is a smaller outbreak near Westhorpe.

[double-click the icon below to open the DEFRA ' of a Protection Zone and a Surveillance Zone' – see map on p.15



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