

Your briefing notes for town and parish councils



Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils

Council leaders back 'Suffolk to the Power of Three' option as part of local government reorganisation consultation

Suffolk residents, businesses and local organisations are being urged to take part in a once in a generation opportunity to shape how council services are delivered for their local communities.

The Government's statutory consultation on LGR is now open, but people only have until **11 January** to respond, so we would be grateful for your help in ensuring that your communities are aware.

The consultation seeks views on the two proposals submitted for Suffolk: the Three Councils for Suffolk case submitted jointly by the district and borough councils, and One Suffolk, submitted by Suffolk County Council.

You can find out more on [the Three Councils for Suffolk website](#), including the benefits of our case for businesses, residents, town and parish councils and for the voluntary and community sector.

In addition to our case in full, there are also [Q&As](#) which may help you respond to queries from residents. The site also includes a link to the [One Suffolk website](#) to ensure awareness of both cases. We are also raising awareness through social media and would be grateful for your help by following, liking and sharing our posts.

In addition, leaflets and postcards have been produced for councillors to share within their communities and networks (*artwork attached to the email to clerks for their information*).

Should you wish to receive any of these materials, please let us know via your district councillor, or by contacting [Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' communication team](#) direct.

Almost £2 million pledged for biodiversity and nature recovery across Mid Suffolk

Mid Suffolk District Council has committed £1.8 million over the next three years to accelerate work which enhances biodiversity and nature – in a bid to safeguard the environment for generations to come. The investment is a major step towards reversing habitat loss and supporting wildlife across the district.

Sports pavilion, level crossing project and play area among projects boosted by £2 million investment

More than £2million will be invested in projects across Mid Suffolk including a new sports pavilion, development work for a level crossing, and major play area revamp.

Bird flu cases in Suffolk

Outbreaks of bird flu have recently been confirmed in our area. Cases have been reported in Claydon, Lawshall and Woodbridge in recent weeks. You can find details about the most recent outbreak in Claydon on the Government website and download a map of the protection and surveillance zones. To stay up to date with all the latest information, resources and guidance, make sure you are [following Suffolk Trading Standards on social media](#) and sharing their posts. You can also [find a series of further posters, containing warnings and useful resources, on the government website](#) to be displayed in your areas if necessary or shared with relevant land managers.

New Mid Suffolk Youth Council will give young people a say

Young people in Mid Suffolk are to be given 'a voice for change' after councillors gave cross-party support for the creation of a new Youth Council. The new group is aimed at getting young people involved and engaged with politics – providing a real opportunity for Mid Suffolk Youth Council members to help shape their local communities.

Suffolk Nature Recovery Strategy launched

Suffolk County Council has now published Suffolk's Local Nature Recovery Strategy (LNRS). It follows close work over a number of years with many stakeholders - including our councils, as well as public engagement, to identify common themes to address the decline in nature and opportunities to enable it to recover.

You can [find the strategy as well as FAQs on the Suffolk County Council website](#). You may find this, the accompanying [Suffolk Local Habitat Map tool](#), as well as other publicly available data sets such as our [tree canopy survey report](#) and [the Suffolk Biodiversity Information service website](#), useful when planning your future town or parish environmental projects and funding applications. Please share this with community and environmental groups in your area.

Mid Suffolk Rural Support Fund

A reminder that the Mid Suffolk Rural Support Fund is still open for applications. This is a fund created to support towns and villages outside of Stowmarket. More information can be found on the [Mid Suffolk website](#) and we attach a poster to the email to clerks in the hope that you may be willing to promote the fund within your communities.

Anglian Water flood guidance

Anglian Water has created a leaflet to help people protect their homes from winter flooding. The information is particularly relevant due to the long, hot summer we have had this year. You can find the leaflet as an attachment on this email. Further flooding information and guidance can be found on our website.

Sustainable Communities Food Fund

Our Sustainable Communities Food Fund provides grants to small scale food initiatives such as community pantries, fridges and food pop-ups.

Between £250 and £5,000 is available and can be used for anything from the purchase of equipment and revenue costs to delivering training and workshops.

Funding is awarded on a first come, first served basis, so please encourage groups to submit an application as soon as they can.