

District Councillors report to 14<sup>th</sup> November 2021

I am sure many of you have been paying your respects to the sacrifices of our Armed Forces, their families, our emergency services and the civilians who have lost their lives in conflict and acts of terrorism. I was privileged to attend a lovely service at Winston Parish Church

Suffolk Resilience forum has stepped up its communications activity in line with Suffolk's recent designation as an Enhanced Response area in a bid to tackle high Covid case numbers and pressure on our hospitals. I have already sent a copy of the leaflet to the Parish Council, which every household in the County will receive to remind everyone how we can all stay safe as well as having the vaccines on offer and I am sure County Councillor Hicks will remind us of this too. In addition those flu jabs are available. Yet again a big thanks to the medical staff and all staff at our medical facilities.

As a gesture of how hard the staff at Mid Suffolk have worked an extra day's leave has been sanctioned over the Christmas and New Year period. The usual out of hours cover will be maintained. For those wishing to work over the Christmas period their extra day can be taken at a later date.

With Cop 22 having concluded just a few things that MSDC have achieved – They are the first rural council to move our fleet to HVO fuel, £1.8m will be invested in solar technology to help power the leisure centres, making homes more energy efficient, protecting and strengthening biodiversity. There is also still time for school-age children to take part in Suffolk Recycling's Pledge for the Planet – creating a display using recycled materials. All schools and groups will also be entered into a draw to win a £100 gardening voucher. Take a look on Suffolk Recycling Website. I am sure if we all do our bit no matter how small we will get there!

The Draft Housing Land Supply Statements have been published indicating both districts can meet the statutory housing requirement. Babergh's five year land supply is 6.86 years whilst Mid Suffolk's is 9.54. Further information is on the Joint Local Plan Website.

Mid Suffolk District Council has organised a Peer review of its planning committee process, supported by the Local Government Association (LGA) and the Planning Advisory Service (PAS) for which I was in discussion and agreement with the Port Folio Holders, Senior Planners and the Administration to receive feedback with an aim to improve the service.

Bringing Christmas cheer to families in need at Christmas time, the team at Martlesham Tesco have generously supported the temporary accommodation families. In addition Suffolk Secret Santa 2021 is its 5<sup>th</sup> year. Any donations please either digitally using the Amazon gift lists or at the drop-off points at Endeavour House, Landmark House, and Riverside in Lowestoft. Again please look at the poster on MSDC website and all gifts will be shared between children in SCC managed children's homes and Afghan families resettled in Suffolk.

To cut food waste over three months why not sign up to the 'Food Savvy Challenge' and you could be in with a chance of winning £180 cash prize. Competition closes 12pm Sunday 5<sup>th</sup> December – all details on the website.

The virtual High Street is just one of the initiatives MSDC is running to help support businesses after the pandemic to find out more please visit [www.virtualhighstreet.uk](http://www.virtualhighstreet.uk).

I still have some locality budget so any initiatives that I can support please contact me.

Cllr Mrs Kathie Guthrie