

District Councillors Report 18th May 2020

Firstly may I once again congratulate the resilience and public spirit of the Community and the Debenham Ward and all the Volunteers and Local Shops.

Many meetings have been going on via Skype so I have not been idle.

I have been working hard with the focus group trying to get the Joint Local Plan(JLP) moving forward. Some days we had four hours going through it bit by bit. This brings me on to the Debenham Local Plan. This is now moving towards a review period and that was mentioned at our JLP meetings and I defended rigorously the current plan and proposed numbers of dwellings for Debenham up to 2036.

A Planning Application for the site identified on Low Road will be coming forward with a reduced proposed number and that will impact on numbers overall for Mid Suffolk. I am sure the NHP team are working to ensure those allocated sites come forward.

There are of course a number of sites in Debenham which have an active application and I am monitoring the progress on those.

We have had the first Virtual Planning Meeting (and in fact was the first in East Anglia) which I hosted a couple of weeks ago and there will be another one shortly. It is not an easy meeting to chair and it didn't help when there was a power cut in Needham market where one of the committee members lives but we got through it and despite a press release EADT didn't think it newsworthy enough despite it being the first in Suffolk and one of the first in the country.

You may have heard the ongoing decisions with regard to the Snoasis planning application. It had been heard at committee some time last year and permission had been given provided that a 106 arrangement was in place within 6 months of that decision. Because there was a problem with a small piece of land ownership matters should have come back to my Committee but it was a technicality which over ran. Detailed papers were sent to myself, Cllr Hicks and the Portfolio holder and with questions satisfied it was agreed with the CEO that the Chief Planning Officer and government guidelines that they could use their discretionary powers and could give permission for the matter to move forward. It is hoped this will create many many jobs.

Gateway 14 which is a company wholly owned by Mid Suffolk District Council has appointed a Development manager for MSDC with regard to the land near the Tesco roundabout at Stowmarket and it is hoped that 2.3million square feet of business land will be available for Logistics and commercial accommodation over the next 10 – 15 years with appropriate employment.

Garden Waste Bin collections have recommenced and it is asked that people do little and often so as not to overwhelm the capacity of the lorries! Please also bear with the collection team if you are seemingly missed as there may be one or two hiccoughs

Grants are available for small business and whilst many have claimed there are still those out there who have not. Contact business.rates@ipswich.gov.uk to see if you are eligible or look on the MSDC website.

Many of the Covid 19 updates have been provided by SCC and I have been forwarding them on but they are now going direct to all PC's however there is a new initiative called :-

‘Stick with it Campaign’

And rather than me making a precis of it I attach it below.

Please find below for your information a press release regarding the *Stick With It Suffolk* campaign. This is being rolled out this week by the Suffolk Resilience Forum (of which both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are part). It aims to give the public clear, consistent and trustworthy advice

on how best to minimise the spread of COVID-19 and maintain public support and adherence to Government instructions following last week's easing of restrictions. The campaign features prominently in today's EADT and Ipswich Star and has also been covered on BBC Radio Suffolk this morning. We are also supporting the campaign [on our website](#) and through Babergh and Mid Suffolk's social media (Facebook and Twitter) using the hashtag [#StickWithItSuffolk](#). Further information will follow soon but, as community leaders, we would be grateful if you could also share the messages with your own local networks and on your own social media as appropriate in the meantime.

Stick With It Suffolk – continue slowing the spread of coronavirus

Suffolk people are being asked to continue their great efforts, which are successfully reducing the spread of COVID-19.

Stick With It Suffolk is a campaign launching on Monday 18 May 2020, highlighting what we must all continue doing, to keep each other safe and to defeat the virus. Recent data* shows that around 1 in 600 people in Suffolk have tested positive for COVID-19, which compares favourably to Norfolk, Essex and the national average.

However, we are not out of the woods yet. The number is continuing to rise, although more slowly, which is why it is crucial that people keep following the instructions. These are:

- Keep staying at home
- Keep working from home where you can
- Keep 2 metres apart if you go out
- Keep exercising safely
- Keep washing your hands with soap and water
- Keep self-isolating if you or anyone in your household has symptoms
- Keep travelling by car, bike or walking
- Keep staying safe at work
- Keep shielding yourself if you're vulnerable
- Keep supporting local businesses
- Keep looking out for each other

Stick With It Suffolk is being rolled out across the county by the Suffolk Resilience Forum, which include Suffolk's NHS, Emergency and Public Services. These local authorities and organisations are working together around the clock to keep Suffolk as safe as possible.

This is how Suffolk will successfully respond to the government's Stay Alert, Control The Virus, Save Lives message.

People are asked to share their stories and how they are managing to stick with it, using the hashtag [#StickWithItSuffolk](#) on social media.

Stuart Keeble, Suffolk Director of Public Health, said:

“On behalf of all the members of the Suffolk Resilience Forum, I'd like to say thank you to the people of Suffolk for the sacrifices they are making by following these instructions.

“But now, more than ever, it is important that we stick with it - the number of cases can very easily increase if we take our eye off the ball. This would be a backward step, with strict lockdown measures coming back into force.

“With young children of my own, I understand how difficult it is when they can't see their family and friends, they would love to see their grandparents but I know this increases the risk to my family and Suffolk residents. We are making progress, and we will continue to do so if we Stick With It Suffolk.”

Dr Mark Shenton, Chair of the Ipswich and East Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group, said:

“I would like to take this opportunity to thank all of our communities for their continued support in helping our health and care system to manage this public health emergency.

“These are unprecedented times and the measures we have all taken so far are really making a difference. This is why it is so important to continue following government guidelines and keeping the two metre distance from each other.

“I am so proud of how our services are responding to this crisis and extremely heartened by the continued support that so many people are giving us by following these rules.

“Please continue to stay alert, continue to help control this virus and help us all save lives.”

Cumulative COVID-19 Cases per 100,000 people, last ten available days (upto 13 May)
Across 151 regions in England:

	<i>Cases per 100k</i>	<i>= 1 in X people</i>
National average	253.0	= 1 in 395
Suffolk	174.8	= 1 in 572
Essex	203.4	= 1 in 491
Norfolk	215.1	= 1 in 464

I hope this if of value to all of you
And ends a rather lengthy report

Kathie Guthrie
District councillor for Debenham Ward