

District Cllr Report Battsford and Ringshall Ward

Barking, Battsford, Great Bricett, Offton, Ringshall, Willisham

June 2020

Operations during Covid-19

Staff are continuing to work from home, making use of Skype or Teams to hold virtual meetings with colleagues and residents; non-urgent site inspections are not taking place. Many officers have been seconded to different duties to help MSDC respond to the issues arising from the pandemic. A virtual full Council meeting is being planned for July.

Tree for Life

The Tree for Life scheme has been relaunched. Parents of children born or adopted during 2020 can apply for a free tree to plant in their own garden or other suitable location. It is open to all families in Mid Suffolk who welcome a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2020, in addition to parents who may have lost a child during the same period to apply for a remembrance tree. The closing date for applications is 17 January 2021.

Climate Change Task Force

The Climate Change Task force group held their virtual meeting on the 26th May to finalise recommendations to reduce the councils carbon emissions to net-zero by 2030. Decisions on these proposals are set to be taken in July's Mid Suffolk Cabinet Meeting.

Joint Local Plan

It is anticipated that the draft Joint Local Plan (JLP) will be discussed by full Council in July. A cross party working group from both councils has been working through it but the allocations for development along the A14 corridor is little changed. There are further stages, including Examination by an Inspector, before the JLP can be adopted as a planning document will full weight.

Business Innovation and Growth Fund

A new £300,000 funding programme for small businesses across Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been agreed - with funds to be allocated over the next three years. The aim is to help sustain and create jobs, provide opportunities to grow and innovate as well as react to the changing business landscape.

Small Business Grants

A new Discretionary Grant is now open for businesses based in shared offices or other flexible workspaces, market traders, bed and breakfasts and small charity properties. The value of the grants range between £2,500 - £5,000 and can only be claimed by businesses who have been unable to access any other grants. Details are on the MSDC website. Help is available from many different schemes so if you run a business or know someone who does and may not have applied, please get in touch with us or go to the MSDC website where there are details and an on-line application form.

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