

District Cllr Report Battsford and Ringshall Ward

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

September 2021

Afghan refugees

Following the Government announcement of its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees, councils in Suffolk, including MSDC, have expressed their commitment to assist. We have already helped a small number of Afghan interpreters and their families to resettle in Suffolk. There will be ongoing work to support unaccompanied asylum-seeking children and other refugees entering the UK.

Gateway14

Proposals for the logistics and business park spanning 156 acres between the A14 and A1120 has been granted planning permission. This was a very sensitive application as Mid Suffolk District Council own the site (through its company Gateway14 Ltd.) and are also the Planning Authority making the legal decision whether or not to approve the application. A number of councillors in the opposition group were against the proposal on the basis of traffic impacts and landscape buffers reduced to 20 m from 40 m shown in the original plans. The application, despite its significance, was decided at a regular planning committee meeting with an agenda that included 7 other development proposals.

Development of Needham Market former HQ site

This development of homes for private sale is progressing well and show homes can now be viewed by potential buyers. This is the first phase of housing development being carried out by as a Public/Private Joint Venture. Further development will include a small supermarket and affordable homes for shared ownership and for social rent.

Cycling and Walking

Babergh and MSDC have set up a Joint Task and Finish Group to prepare a Local Cycling and Walking Improvement Plan (LCWIP) to prioritise locations across the Districts for new or improved cycle and pedestrian provision.

Taxi licensing

The council missed the opportunity to encourage the shift to electric vehicles when they put forward a new taxi licensing policy at the Licensing Committee meeting in August. Even though no new diesel or petrol car can be purchased after 2030, our ten-year policy included no provisions to encourage cab drivers to move to electric vehicles. It contained none of the incentives already in place in other districts. The policy mentions no efforts to reduce emissions and was approved on the Chair's casting vote.

Compost Giveaway

The date for collection of free compost from Mill Meadow, Needham Lake has been changed and will now be Sunday 19 September from 9.00 to 12.00.

Dr Daniel Pratt

Mid Suffolk District Councillor

Email: daniel.pratt@midsuffolk.gov.uk

Telephone: 07775389193