

District Cllr Report Battsford and Ringshall Ward

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

November 2020

Covid-19 Funding

Mid Suffolk is administering the Self-Isolation Support Payment. This is a £500 compensation payment for those who have had to isolate due to Track and Trace. To date the district council have allocated £33,000. Separately, the Government has provided £40,000 to the district council to use on compliance issues relating to Covid 19. As businesses prepare for the second national lockdown, the Government has announced two grant schemes for businesses. While these grants will be administered by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council, the details and criteria of the schemes are yet to be defined.

Home, But Not Alone

The free phoneline has re-opened in response to England's second national lockdown. The telephone number is 0800 876 6926 and the service will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

Suffolk Advice and Support Service

Councils across Suffolk are funding a new telephone helpline for financial advice, housing and benefits, and access to food. This is being coordinated by Citizens Advice Bureau. Anyone seeking advice or support can call the helpline: 0800 068 3131

Culture Recovery Fund

Mid Suffolk supported two successful bids for this including £92,000 for the Museum of East Anglian Life and £84,000 for the John Peel Centre.

Joint Local Plan

The latest version of the Local Plan has just been published for consultation in respect of technical issues. A special meeting of Council will be held on 11 November to discuss the Plan. Subject to approval at that meeting, it will be submitted to the Planning Inspectorate. An Inspector will be appointed and there will be a public examination in mid-2021. The Inspector's report may well contain comments which will need to be considered before the Plan can be adopted. Each parish council will be emailed an electronic copy of the document. In the meantime, it can be found in the Planning Policy pages on Mid Suffolk's website: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/Strategic-Planning/JLPReg19/FullCouncil/BMSDC-Joint-Local-Plan-Pre-Submission-Nov-2020-FINAL.pdf>

Biodiversity Action Plan

Councillors in Cabinet have approved our first Biodiversity Action Plan, produced by the cross-party task force. The aim is to protect and enhance biodiversity through specific initiatives and partnership working. Initiatives include planting 500 trees and a kilometre of hedging during 2021/22, managing green space for the benefit of wildlife, and a mapping project to evaluate ecological assets.

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