

District Cllr Report Battsford and Ringshall Ward

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

January 2021

2021/2022 Budget

Council Members have received an initial briefing on the draft budget for 2021/22. Once again, the Council is planning for a surplus at the end of next year following a likely underspend during the current year. It is proposed that Council Tax be increased by 1.66%, which is equivalent to 23p per month for a Band D property. The budget will be debated by Council on 23 February.

Refuse Fleet Vehicles Switch to Biofuel

It is proposed that the Council's vehicle fleet will be transferred from fossil fuel diesel to Hydrotreated Vegetable Oil (HVO) diesel. It is estimated that the councils' fleet of vehicles currently emits nearly 900 tonnes of carbon dioxide, this step could cut these emissions by 90%

Green Homes Scheme

The Green Homes scheme, which is designed to help make homes more energy efficient, offers vouchers to households for energy savings projects, and also invites councils to bid for funding towards the cost. The council will also benefit, using funds to help insulate and install renewable heating in 48 socially rented properties in Babergh and Mid Suffolk.

Covid-19 Support for Businesses and Individuals

Self-Isolation Support Payment

Mid Suffolk is administering the Self-Isolation Support Payment. This is a £500 compensation payment for those who have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace and meet the eligibility criteria. The government has provided limited funding for discretionary awards to be made if you have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace but do not meet the criteria for the Self-Isolation Support Payment.

National Lockdown Support Grants for Businesses

With the announcement of a National Lockdown commencing on the 5th January, MSDC is awaiting detailed government guidance on the operation of business grant schemes for the National Lockdown. The LRSG for the period Suffolk was in Tier 2 (from 2nd December to 25th December) is still open.

Suffolk Support and Advice Service

This helpline provides information and support relating to debt, benefits, housing and employment. The service is open between 9 am and 5 pm Monday to Friday: **0800 068 3131**

Home, But Not Alone Helpline

The helpline is in place to support clinically extremely vulnerable people who may need additional information or support. The service will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday: **0800 876 6926**

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