

District Report September 2021 – Councillor Wendy Turner

New Homes	Mid Suffolk District Council and Norse Group open show homes on the former Needham Market office complex. This joint venture was set up to deliver housing and promote sustainable growth across the district. There will be a total of 133 new houses, flats and bungalows, a natural community space, walk and library. Green party councillors were disappointed that the homes were not exemplar social housing built to the highest passive standards, which would have provided much needed homes for local people and secure an income for the Council for years to come.
Gateway 14	Planning permission for the controversial Gateway 14 156 acre business and logistics park which is to be sited between the A14 and the A1120 at Stowmarket have been approved, despite heavy opposition from local people, ward Councillors, Creting St Peter Parish Council and the Gateway 14 Residents Campaign Group. Concerns about the increase in traffic, HGVs using narrow country lanes and the reduced landscaping areas around the site were raised.
Woolpit car park	Construction began on a community car park at Woolpit Health Centre which will see an additional 120 spaces created. The health centre worked with Suffolk County Council, NHS West Suffolk Clinical Commissioning Group and Woolpit parish council to make this happen.
New Taxi legislation	Taxi Drivers will need to transition to zero emission cars by 2030 without financial support from MSDC after the Licensing Committee voted to update its vehicle hire policy. Green and Lib Dem members argued for financial incentives and support to help taxi drivers make the transition
Housing 21	Housing 21 a non-for-profit provider of retirement housing have applied for planning permission to build a 54 bed extra care homes in Thurston, 40 of which will be apartments, 14 bungalows and communal areas. Thurston ward Councillor Wendy Turner has been working with the owners of the land, Housing 21 and local residents to push for higher passive building standards and greater environmental protection for the surrounding hedges and trees.
Afghan refugees	Mid Suffolk District council along with other district and Borough have stated they are committed to re homing Afghan people who have fled their homeland but as of yet details have not been confirmed as to how this will be implemented.
Biodiversity gain	Mid Suffolk District council have purchased almost 3 acres of land to provide a green space for flora and fauna in Wash Lane, Great Finborough as part of the Council's drive to increase biodiversity and improve the environment for local people.
Devolution	Suffolk Councils have written to the Secretary of State for local government about early devolution talks with the government, after setting out its ambition to make available to county areas, similar devolved decision-making powers and public funding enjoyed by cities and urban areas.

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Norton pedestrian crossing	Suffolk County Councillor Andy Mellen and Cllr Turner met with a Highways representative and the Chair of Norton PC to discuss options of a pedestrian crossing for the village. Cllr Mellen is funding a highways report to see if there is a viable crossing place along the A1088.
Skate Park	Councillor Wendy Turner met with Roger Smith, trustee of the Ben Wragge Skate Park Group in Thurston to discuss how to move forward plans for a skate park that has been in the pipeline for 5 years. The sticking block is lack of parish land on which to site the skatepark. Cllr Turner suggested looking at 'skate spots' options, which might offer a compromise to youngsters whilst suitable land is found. Roger is currently looking into this.
Foot/Cycle path clearing	Councillor Wendy Turner has organised a working party of Councillors and volunteers to help clear the overgrown cycle and footpath from Thurston to Beyton on the 4 th of September between 2 and 4pm. Contact Wendy on 07548155748 for more details.

Cllr Wendy Turner

Mid Suffolk District Councillor (Green Party)

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