

District Councillor's Report: Harry Richardson

Mid Suffolk District Council

MSDC did not hold a full Council meeting in August as per our usual practice and so the next meeting will take place on Thursday 23rd September.

In lieu of a substantive update on Council business I have therefore included below a summary of other developments across Mid Suffolk:

Statement regarding Afghan refugees

August saw the Government announce its new resettlement scheme for Afghan refugees. Whilst the full details are yet to be confirmed, it is clear that the Government needs local authorities everywhere to step up and support this national effort and Mid Suffolk will be further developing our response.

Babergh and Mid Suffolk join calls for devolution talks with Government

Together with other public sector leaders in Suffolk, we wrote to the Secretary of State responsible for local government this month, to say we welcome early discussions with Ministers about a possible devolution deal for Suffolk.

Green light for Gateway 14

Initial plans, with conditions, were approved this month for Gateway 14 – Stowmarket's 2.45 million square foot, innovation, business and logistics park. Further discussions are ongoing to maximise the benefits for the site as part of the region's Freeport East proposals.

Show homes give first glimpse of council investment in Needham Market

Show homes in Needham Market opened their doors to potential buyers last month – in the first phase of the council's multi-million investment in the town. This development has arisen after Mid Suffolk vacated its former HQ site, releasing new brownfield land to deliver additional housing for the District.

Local Energy Showcase will champion green businesses

Businesses and community organisations are being urged to tackle climate change by joining Suffolk's first ever showcase event celebrating sustainability and green energy. Please encourage anyone who may be interested in this to take part – further details are available on Mid Suffolk's website.

Summer events planned for residents and visitors

This summer, high streets and tourist locations across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been preparing a host of events and activities as they welcome residents and visitors back to their high streets and places safely following the lifting of Covid restrictions.

Green oasis set to strengthen Mid Suffolk's biodiversity

Almost three acres of land near Stowmarket has been bought by Mid Suffolk District Council to provide a green oasis for the town – as part of the council's biodiversity plans.

Work begins on Woolpit community car park

Mid Suffolk councillors were joined by NHS representatives last month for the start of construction on a much-needed car park serving Woolpit Health Centre and the local community.

I hope that this report has been useful but if a member of the Parish Council wishes to discuss any of the above further then please do not hesitate to contact me via the email address below.

With kind regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, reading 'Harry Richardson', with a horizontal line underneath.

Cllr Harry Richardson JP

Mid Suffolk District Councillor for Thurston Ward

Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing

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