

District Councillor Report: Gislingham Ward August 2020

Mellis, Gislingham, Wickham Skeith, Thornham Magna, Thornham Parva, Wortham and Burgate

Covid-19	Staff are continuing to work from home, making use of Microsoft Teams to hold virtual meetings with colleagues, councillors and residents. Non-urgent site inspections are not taking place. Some officers are beginning to return to their normal jobs having been seconded to different duties arising from the pandemic. Online meetings are planned up to February 2021
Meetings	All District Council and Committee meetings are now being held as virtual meetings using the Microsoft Teams platform. They can be viewed on YouTube. The full Council meeting on 23 July will be the Annual Council Meeting where the Chair of the Council will be elected for the year and appointments to committees and outside bodies will be confirmed.
Joint Local Plan	The Joint Local Plan is promised for October 2020 when it will be available and ready to be considered at a meeting of the full Council. The next version of the Plan, when we see it, may well be very different from the consultation draft of July 2019. If, and when, Council approves the Plan, it will be subject to further consultation and an Inspector's Examination before it can be formally adopted as planning policy. However, there are two Government Papers out for consultation that may have to be taken into account.
<i>Changes to the Current Planning System</i> Ends 1 st Oct 2020	<p><i>This consultation sets out proposals for measures to improve the effectiveness of the current planning system. The 4 main proposals are:</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>changes to the standard method for assessing local housing need</i> • <i>securing of First Homes through developer contributions in the short term until the transition to a new system</i> • <i>supporting small and medium-sized builders by temporarily lifting the small sites threshold below which developers do not need to contribute to affordable housing</i> • <i>extending the current Permission in Principle to major development</i> <p><i>The full document may be found here: </i><i>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/changes-to-the-current-planning-system</i></p> <p><i>Changes to the method for assessing house needs will put further pressure on MS&BDC to bring forward sites for development.</i></p> <p>Presently the baseline for Babergh is 342.5 homes. Applying the proposed factor results in $342.5 \times 2.304375 = 789$ homes.</p> <p>Presently baseline for Mid Suffolk is 456.2 homes. Applying the proposed adjustment factor results in $456.2 \times 1.651875 = 754$ homes</p>
<i>Response to Govt. White Paper Planning Reforms</i> Ends 29 th Oct 2020	<p><i>This is out to consultation, significantly it is proposed to simplify the role of local plans by focusing on identifying land under three categories— Growth areas suitable for substantial development, and where outline approval for development would be automatically secured for forms and types of development specified in the Plan; Renewal areas suitable for some development, such as gentle densification; and Protected areas where – as the name suggests – development is restricted.”</i></p> <p><i>The full document can be found here: </i><i>https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/planning-for-the-future/planning-for-the-future</i></p> <p><i>In the forward, the Prime Minister promises a new planning system: “That gives you a greater say over what gets built in your community.”</i></p>

<p>Chris Dowsing</p> <p>Waste Management Officer</p>	<p>We're giving away 480 bags of free compost:</p> <p>12 September, 9am-12pm, Needham Lake</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Attendees will be allowed up to two bags of compost per car - once it's gone, it's gone • A one way traffic system will be in place with staff on hand to guide attendees through • Attendees are asked not to get out of their car, if possible, to help our staff maintain social distancing • All the compost has been supplied by Suffolk's Material Change facilities using recycled garden waste - find out more about the facilities on the Suffolk Recycling website <p>You can find more information on our website which includes links to the Facebook events which you're welcome to share with local residents, community groups and gardening clubs.</p>
<p>Gateway 14</p>	<p>Gateway 14, the commercial development site bought by MSDC in 2018. - a consultation on is due to launch next week. The web address is G14yoursay.co.uk and you can register for updates. There has been a reasonable amount of interest in the site from a variety of types of businesses.</p>
<p>Impact of COVID-19</p>	<p>Since March 2020</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • residents relying on benefits have increased by 93% and 97% in Babergh and Mid Suffolk respectively (compared to 75% locally + 84% nationally) • those classed as 'unemployed' by DWP have increased across Babergh by 140% and Mid Suffolk by 142% (compared to 108% locally and nationally) • in-work UC claimants have increased by 92% (BDC) and 95% (MSDC) (compared to 78% locally + 87% nationally) <p>In Mid Suffolk all responding businesses that were not required to close are still trading at the end of July. While 42% of those that were required to close have since reopened, and the remaining 58% are getting ready to reopen as soon as possible.</p> <p>78% of businesses currently trading say their revenues have decreased by on average 61% compared to pre-COVID.</p>
<p>Recovery Action Planning</p>	<p>Current support to businesses through grants.</p> <p>Developing Business Support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Areas of new flexible workspace and virtual business support • New Workspace pilots • Digital infrastructure rollout with partners and promotion of local fibre voucher scheme • Promotion of key clusters for innovation, sector specialism and enterprise • Skills mapping – Centre of excellence targeting transferable and specialist skills development • Support for growth of initiatives such as Innovation Labs • New business support programmes • Develop sector resilience plans which reflect emerging growth sectors but support core/traditional sectors • New business grants launched in Autumn
<p>Wellbeing Concerns across Suffolk</p>	<p>Report to follow.</p>
<p>Locality Awards</p>	<p>A reminder that Locality Awards have been launched for 2020/21. If you know of a community group in need of some funding, please put them in touch with me.</p>
<p>Disabled</p>	<p>In the recent Performance Reporting we raised concerns, again, that the grant available is not</p>

Facilities Grant	being spent. If you know anyone who needs any kind of adaptation to their home, from a handrail to a wet room, please ask them to get in touch. The application process is very straightforward. Please use the following link: https://www.babergh.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing-grants/disabled-facilities-grant/
Home but not Alone	<i>This service is gradually being phased out, only 2 or 3 phone calls are now being received, the nature of the calls means that it is best responded to by the individual service providers themselves. The number will still be monitored but staff have now returned to their normal roles. The structure is being "mothballed" and would be revived if there is a future need. It is recognised that there was a terrific response by local community groups and organisations to ensure that individual needs were met during the current emergency.</i>
Wellbeing NHS	https://www.wellbeingnhs.co.uk/suffolk/ Suffolk NHS has a new Wellbeing Community Advisor, Nikki Betts, who is keen to make contact with groups and individuals who are interested in or have concerns about Mental Health, Wellbeing and Emotional Support. The link is to the new NHS site where families, young people, and professionals may access make a referral or get advice about wellbeing and mental health services or you can get in contact on 0345 600 2090 . To contact Nikki: Nicola.betts@nsft.nhs.uk .

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