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| Current COVID -19 Information | Home But Not Alone number and underpinning services.​ **0800 876 6926**. The phonelines are open from 9am to 5pm, Mon to Fri. Demand on the Home But Not Alone phone number has grown but the most significant calls involve help with complex mental health issues.  Latest news: <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/features/our-covid-19-response/>  Suffolk Advice and Support Service:  Hardship Fund: For financial advice or support with access to food, call The Suffolk Advice and Support Service on 0800 068 3131.  Covid-19 business grants now available  Business in Babergh and Mid Suffolk who have had to close their doors to customers, or have been significantly financially impacted by Covid-19 restrictions, may be eligible for support.  Further info. <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/features/support-available-for-businesses-in-babergh-and-mid-suffolk>  The numbers of COVID-19 cases and deaths are on the Suffolk public health site which can be accessed at: <HTTPS://www.healthysuffolk.org.uk/jsna/coronawatch>.  It has data massaged by SODA into a really informative form. |
| INDEPENDENT LIVING SERVICE | **New** 'Independent Living Service’ developed to help improve the quality of life of the districts’ most vulnerable residents needing home adaptations - offering advice and support to help them live independently and safely in their homes.  More information: <https://www.babergh.gov.uk/housing/private-sector-housing-grants/independent-living-service/>  You could receive a Disabled Facilities Grant if you or someone in your household is disabled and changes to your home are needed.  **Who is the service for?**  The service is for residents who: live in Babergh or Mid Suffolk, have a registered (or able to be registered as) disability, own a home or rent from a private landlord  If you are a Council or housing association tenant, contact your Housing Officer for help and advice on how you can remain safely in your home or consider alternative accommodation. |
| New West Suffolk Hospital | As the plans for a new hospital for West Suffolk get underway it is important that as many people are involved in developing the proposals as possible. The vision for the West Suffolk NHS Foundation Trust (WSFT) project is to ensure the way that health services are delivered is fit for the local population’s current and future needs and the team need your help to do that. The new facility is for West Suffolk people and is to be designed by West Suffolk people.  The project team are establishing a Co-production Community Engagement Group (CCEG) which will help shape the public engagement around the hospital redevelopment.  If you would like to join the CCEG or to find out more information, please visit the website at [<https://www.wsh.nhs.uk/New-healthcare-facility/Get-involved.aspx>](https://preview-wsuff.cloud.contensis.com/Preview/1/New-healthcare-facility/Get-involved.aspx) and complete an expression of interest form. |
| Advance notice -elections | B&MSDC will be observing a pre-election period moratorium (purdah) in respect of the forthcoming Police and Crime Commissioner and Suffolk County Council **Elections on Thursday 6 May 2021**. The moratorium will run from 25 March 2021 – the date that the notice of election is published – through to 7 May 2021. Please note that the Mid Suffolk full council meeting will not be affected as the notice will be published after the meeting has concluded. |
| CENSUS 21  21st March | Feb 22-27 Advance Card Lands  Mar 3-12 Initial contact Packs **Digital-first pack:**  Aims to:   * Provide Digital-First households (89% of all households) with their household access code for the electronic questionnaire. * Replicate messaging that appears on the front page of the paper questionnaire. * Provide help options - including where to request a paper questionnaire.   Followed by reminders, a “Field Force”, non-compliance measures 30th April  From 2011 Census: Household Spaces with at least one usual resident 40,306 – 96%  Household spaces with no usual residents 1,623 – 4% |
| 16th Feb MSDC Council Meeting | 2021/22 Budget. The Council was asked to vote to approve the budget, in particular: That the General Fund Budget for 2021/22 is based on an increase to Council Tax of 1.66% which equates to £2.80 per annum (23p per month) for a Band D property. This will raise a total sum in the region of a total of £104,000. This increase was opposed by the opposition on the grounds that the budget was being set year on year to create a surplus that would increase reserves further and this increase was unnecessary and inappropriate in these difficult times.  An extra item was: “That the General Fund Budget proposals for 2021/22 and four-year outlook set out in the report be approved, *and that recommendations to Cabinet be prepared, using a balanced, cross-party approach, for the allocation of the additional £4m of funding for investment in our local economy, housing, the wellbeing of our residents and in our communities. This cross-party approach would also give consideration to the budget amendments proposed in 2020/21 and 2021/22.”*  This was in response to a detailed set of amendments to the budget from the Greens and Lib. Dems. that were targeted to achieve the council’s strategic priorities and support the ambition of achieving carbon net zero by 2030.  So, transfers will be made from the Growth and Efficiency Fund into the following reserves which are aligned to the Councils key strategic priorities;   * £1m for Economy, * £1m for Housing, * £1m for Communities, * £1m for Well-being, * £104k towards Covid related business recovery   will be used as directed by cross party work groups to be set up in May and due to report by July.  The published amendments were withdrawn, and the new additions were supported by both the administration and the opposition. The administration also put forward the Housing Revenue Account Budget which was carried although again the opposition opposed it because of increases in Social Rents for the most vulnerable that were again considered inappropriate and unjustified in the context of reserves being held. The original budget set for the HRA for 2020/21 shows a deficit of £564k, which would have been transferred from reserves. The forecast position at December is a surplus of£2.193m, a favourable variance of £2.757m. |
| BIns | Message 9th Feb  “I’m sorry I can’t be more definite but as soon as we can safely start collecting we will.   That may be tomorrow, however if we do it will be limited to areas that are safe to do so. We’ve the safety of moving the large vehicles about as well as the guys safety making the collections on untreated surfaces.   We will work weekends to try and catch up and can get extra crews out as available next week  (COVID absence has impacted the service as well)   We will take extra waste and if you can advise residents to leave bins out and will be along as soon as we can.”   Oliver Faiers  **Corporate Manager – Waste, Recycling & Fleet** |
| Tetra Pak | There has been much debate amongst councillors and residents regarding the recycling of Tetra Pak.  At present the only way to recycle them in Mid Suffolk is to take them to the recycling depot in Stowmarket. You should not add them to your green recycling bin.  It has been suggested that perhaps there should be a scheme like Terracycle operates for Walkers Crisp packets, or manufacturers should be more responsible for the cost of recycling their packaging.  What would residents like to see happen? Please let me know. |

Councillor Rowland Warboys

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