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| Meetings | Although the council is continuing to follow working from home guidelines where possible, public meetings are now being held in person, the events are recorded and transmitted on youtube.  The Full Council met at Wherstead Park, Ipswich and the full meeting can be viewed here:  <https://baberghmidsuffolk.moderngov.co.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=154&MId=3070&Ver=4>  Paul Ekpenyong (Con.) was elected as Chairman of the Council for the Municipal Year 2021/22 and conservative members continue to chair all but one committee and form the cabinet.  The appointments were made on the deciding vote of the chair as the council vote was tied.  Cllr. Welham (Green) continues as Chair of the Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee. |
| Locality Awards | New grants available now for 2021/22.  Open to groups with projects that provide a clear and tangible benefit to the community. Full information available using the link, or contact me to discuss your project.  <https://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/communities/grants-and-funding/locality-awards-2021-22/> |
| Reminder | **How would you improve cycling and walking routes in our districts?** Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are developing a Local Walking and Cycling Infrastructure Plan. As part of this, we want to hear your views on where and how you think improvements could be made to walking and cycling routes in your area.This consultation will remain open until **Thursday 22nd July** Link to site: <https://baberghmidsuffolkactivetravel.commonplace.is/> |
| Communities | £110k funding available for **holiday activities for children on free school meals**. These will not all be centred on Stowmarket, some to wider communities. Same being planned for 2022.  **Re-start Grants** funded by MSDC, administered by CAS – total £37k. eg small grants to allow groups like WI to re-start, also arts groups, chair-based exercise etc. Advertised via social media. Also £38k for sports clubs to re-start. |
| WSPC | The Western Suffolk Community Safety Partnership (WSCSP) is a statutory body with a responsibility to: • Make an assessment of community safety issues • Produce a plan which responds to those issues • Review and report on progress against that plan • Carry out Domestic Homicide Reviews**The Mix, Stowmarket** received a grant of £7k from WSCSP. Possibility of making bids for grants from WSCSP for ‘diversionary activities’. Other bids: The Forge for detached youth work in Debenham; Kenetic Science for work in Claydon. (“It's lift off for a new science centre and kid's space academy near Ipswich after plans were granted permission by the council. Plans for the new centre, at the site of the former Age UK Suffolk offices in Claydon, were granted permission by Mid Suffolk District Council last week. Run by registered charity Kinetic Science Foundation, the centre will offer children across the UK the chance to learn more about science and technology – including the chance to experience its own space academy. |
| Paper Banks | “Dear Parish Clerks,  Our contractor unexpectedly stopped paper bank collections in the districts on 1 May, as we understand it is no longer viable for them to continue with the service…” BMSDC have responded:  “We have a total of approx. 130 sites over the 2 districts. The glass and textile banks remain unchanged.  We have notified PC’s and explained the position that Bolton’s are no longer going to provide the service and that we are looking into alternatives ……The smaller sites we’re going to service ourselves by swapping the paper banks with wheelie bins and are in the process of working through the sites and bins are being delivered.”  ***I notice that we do not have any local Paper Banks, Some Parish Council do, Would the PC’s like to suggest possible sites and I will ask if we can have one or more.*** |

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