

MID SUFFOLK DISTRICT COUNCILLORS MIKE NORRIS & STEVE PHILLIPS REPORT TO CREETING ST PETER PARISH COUNCIL 21ST SEPTEMBER 2020

FROM RESPONSE TO RECOVERY: Over the past 4 months, the Collaborative Communities COVID-19 Board has been focusing on responding to the pandemic and supporting Suffolk. This includes the Home, But Not Alone phonenumber, food and medication deliveries, emergency food parcels, foodbanks, emergency housing and other support services.

Due to the easing of restrictions, the Board has agreed to move from an emergency response phase into recovery. Although there is a change of focus, the Board is conscious that the situation is changeable and will be ready to respond to any local outbreaks should the need arise.

The Board has agreed to focus on the following themes:

- Food and hardship
- Housing
- Support to the voluntary and community sector
- Restoring the social infrastructure of our communities and combatting loneliness

Following the implementation of 'the rule of six' effective from last Monday we are awaiting any update to the above.

SPOTLIGHT ON SUFFOLK'S FOOD BANKS: Food banks are designed to provide short-term, emergency support with food during a crisis. Their aim is to relieve the immediate pressure of the crisis by providing food, whilst also providing additional support to help people resolve the crises that they face. As Covid-19 continues to unfold food banks have been hit hard in terms of meeting increasing demand with a matching supply. They play a major role in the provision of food by distributing donated and purchased groceries directly to families in need. Pre-C19 there were just over 20 established food banks in Suffolk; there are now 49 established and pop up food banks operating weekly. Since the end of March, Community Action Suffolk (CAS) has been working in partnership with Suffolk County Council, Ipswich Borough Council, East Suffolk, Babergh and Mid Suffolk, and West Suffolk Councils to establish a food supply chain to food banks across Suffolk. The newly formed collaboration has continued to meet regularly to look at the information being collected from food banks and offer help where needed; this has included additional food at short notice and extra storage. CAS have been able to provide advice on both funding and sustainability and appropriate governance for those food banks looking at a more formal structure going forward.

BABERGH AND MID SUFFOLK RECEIVE GOVERNMENT FUNDING TO INSTALL SOLAR CARPORTS: Environmentally-friendly initiatives across Babergh and Mid Suffolk, including electricity micro-generation and solar storage carports, received a major boost last month, with government matched funding of up to £800,000.

COUNCIL HOMES FOR EYE GET GO-AHEAD: The long-awaited redevelopment of a former care home in Eye took a major step forward last month, with planning permission granted for 16 'affordable homes' to be built on the site.

COUNCIL COMMITTEE GIVES GO-AHEAD FOR STOWUPLAND HOMES: MSDC recently approved outline planning permission for 80 houses in Stowupland, provided that the scheme delivers "affordable homes" for low income house-hunters, a pedestrian crossing at a traffic blackspot in the village, and brings an important local green space into community control.

2020 ANNUAL CANVASS TEXT MESSAGES: The Annual Canvass process is now well underway, with the initial letters going out earlier this month. To help streamline the process MSDC is encouraging an electronic process. Electoral services will be trialling the free gov.uk notify service - sending text message reminders to electors that have notified they are new to a property, but are still required to complete the registration process, to ensure that they are able to register to vote.

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Representing Needham Market, Badley, Baylham, Creting St Mary, Creting St Peter, Darmsden.