

## Parish Report – August 2023

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### Joint Local Plan Update

Mid Suffolk / Babergh have submitted their final report to the Inspectors, this followed a round of consultation following updating after initial comments back from the Inspectors. The plan does NOT include specific allocations of land for housing or employment these will form part 2 of the plan.

It is anticipated the inspectors report will be available between 2 – 4 months and then will come to full council to be formally adopted (November?)

Work will then commence on the detail of land allocation to undertake needs assessment for Employment, Gypsy and Traveller and housing to form part of 2 – It is not anticipated there will any considerable in Mid Suffolk.

Once part 1 of the plan is adopted then it will place strength to restrict development to within settlement boundaries.

I raised the concern that adequate affordable housing was revisited from the initial draft plan.

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### Building Services and Compliance Update:

The regulations regarding social housings have changed considerably following Grenfell in 2021 production a large number of safety orders and regulations. This also heralds an IDA (an in depth assessment) to ensure compliance). The team meet frequently with the Regulator (monthly) following initial breach of 2 of the 5 areas that assessed. Home Standards – noncompliance with Decent Home Standard. Action has been taken to address this with securing new contractors and greater monitoring of progress.

The other area was Tenant Satisfaction measures this was implemented in the past 12 months – currently at 68% for Q1 (combined figure for Babergh and Mid Suffolk) Looking to spend capital funds in consultation with local community for improvements, and other activities.

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### Corporate Plan Update:

Looking to refresh corporate plan to reflect current challenges (last plan 2019) a number of channels feed into this 'Annual Residents' Survey live 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023. Community / Staff and Stakeholder engagement workshops.

State of the District Report available in September, draft updated plan stating clear priorities of the District.

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### MSDC Updates

**Review support for residents struggling with cost of living crisis.** This includes: the delivery of £100,000 to tenants through the household support fund, a reduction in council tax for low-income households and the awarding of over £150,000 to households struggling with the cost of their rent through Discretionary Housing Payments.

### Free business support on offer for Babergh and Mid Suffolk start-ups

As part of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, the councils were allocated £90,000 to deliver the scheme and have partnered with MENTA to roll it out across the districts.

### Community clean-ups and pride of place key aims of council's new campaign

Mid Suffolk District Council has launched a campaign to clean-up neighbourhoods, build community pride and tackle the doorstep issues that voters said mattered to them. The new 'Pride in Your Place' campaign will give every town and village the opportunity to apply for funding for projects which improve the appearance and cleanliness of their community.

**Thursday 7th September Tour of Britain cycle race through some areas in the District.**