

# **POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL**

Clerk: Christine Hargan 4 Northfield Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3HF

Telephone: 01449 674727

Email: clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk

## **PUBLIC NOTICE**

A Meeting of Polstead Parish Council will be held on  
**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 starting at 7.30pm**  
**at Polstead Village Hall.**

The Public and Press are invited to attend with the public participation session being held at the meeting.

Except where members of the public have been excluded due to the confidential nature of the business, any person may film, photograph, audio record or use social media to report on meetings of the Council including the public participation session.

**The councillors and the Clerk are undertaking a lateral flow test the day before the meeting and would respectfully ask that all other attendees do the same.**

*Christine Hargan*

**Signed by Christine Hargan** Clerk to Polstead Parish Council Dated 14th January 2022

# POLSTEAD PARISH COUNCIL

Clerk: Christine Hargan 4 Northfield Road, Onehouse, Stowmarket Suffolk IP14 3HF

Telephone: 01449 674727

Email: [clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk](mailto:clerk@polstead-pc.gov.uk)

Dear Councillor

You are summoned to a Meeting of Polstead Parish Council on Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> January 2022 starting at 7.30pm in Polstead Village Hall. The Agenda for the meeting is listed below.

*Christine Hargan*

**Signed by Christine Hargan** Clerk to Polstead Parish Council Dated 14<sup>th</sup> January 2022

1. Apologies for absence
2. Receive **declarations of interests** and **requests for dispensation** from Councillors
3. Agree **Minutes** of Polstead Parish Council (PPC) meeting held on 18<sup>th</sup> November 2021
4. Public forum:
  - a. Receive **reports from County Councillor and District Councillor**
  - b. Receive **questions from Parishioners** (contributions to be limited to 2 minutes)
  - c. Consider update on **Proposed planting schemes** in the Parish
5. Receive **reports and questions from Councillors**
6. Agree actions on **emails distributed** by Clerk since the last meeting
7. Agree actions required following the **Clerk's Report**
8. **Planning**
  - a. **Consider any planning application received since the agenda was published** that requires a response prior to the next scheduled meeting
  - b. **Consider Planning application no:**
    - i. [DC/21/06838](#) Land to the east of Alverstoke Farm Cottage, Calais Street, Polstead, CO6 5DW, severance of garden to form single property and vehicle access
    - ii. [DC/21/06656](#) Brewery Farm Bower House Tye Polstead Suffolk CO6 5BZ, change of use to form a residential annex
    - iii. [DC/21/06657](#) Brewery Farm Bower House Tye Polstead Suffolk CO6 5BZ application for listed building consent
    - iv. [DC/21/06599](#) Broome Hill Martens Lane Polstead Suffolk CO6 5AQ erection of 1<sup>st</sup> floor extension with the installation of new windows in existing dwelling
    - v. [DC/21/06470](#) Ivy Tree Farm Polstead Road Shelley Suffolk IP7 5RE discharge of conditions DC/21/03237- Condition 5 (Refuse Bins and Collection Areas), Condition 7 (Foul Drainage Disposal) and Condition 12 (RAMS Mitigation)
  - c. **Consider any planning application received** since the agenda was posted requiring a response before the next scheduled meeting.
  - d. **Consider the status** of planning applications, appeals, enforcement referrals and any potential planning issues
9. **Finance**
  - a. From the **RFO Report** authorise payments made since the last meeting and to be made: Note income received since the last meeting. Review the Reconciliation of Accounts against Bank Statements and the Statement of Accounts vs Budget
  - b. Taken into consideration the budget agreed and reserves policy **Agree Precept** for 2022/23
10. Consider update on **Polstead WI's plans to convey their land in Polstead**
11. Consider any issues raised regarding **Highways and Footpaths**
12. Consider any **Asset, allotment, playground or playing field** issues including report on Footpath management
13. Review Grit, Litter and Dog bins
14. Review Notice Boards
15. Consider plans for the Queens Platinum Jubilee [Jubilee Beacons](#)
16. Consider plans for the parish questionnaire
17. Review [Standing Orders](#), [Risk Management](#), [Effectiveness of Internal Controls](#), [Financial Regulations](#) and [Policy booklet Expenses](#) – revised to reflect change in Clerk and amends to documents
18. National Grid Consultation
19. Future **agenda items**
20. Time date and place of next meeting 7.30 Thursday 17<sup>th</sup> February 2022 Village Hall Polstead

## Clerk's Report and Associated Papers for the Meeting on January 20<sup>th</sup> 2022

### Agenda Item 2 **Request for dispensation**

If there is an item on this agenda for which you have a pecuniary interest you will not be able to take part in any of the discussion or vote on a resolution. However, if you wish the council to consider your request for dispensation you need to write to the Clerk ahead of the meeting stating your reasons on why you should be given a dispensation.

### Agenda item 6 **emails distributed**

If there is an email that I have distributed which is not included on the agenda and you consider it should be discussed, please raise the item at this point.

Update on bridge/boardwalk on Public footpath 35. This has been reported to Suffolk County Council who have now "identified it" and has been forwarded on to their contractor for a report and action. I understand the issue was a belief that the path was being diverted and thus they could avoid maintenance.

### Agenda item 7 **Clerk's Report**

Minute	Action	Complete ✓
18/041	Sent reply to Lord of the Manor's solicitor.	
21/173	Working with Community Wardens to resource self closing device for play equipment gate.	
21/184	Minutes updated on Polstead website.	✓
21/186	Requested speed survey results for Mill Street from the Police.	✓
21/187	Wrote to organiser of auctions.	✓
21/190	Sent planning application response(s) to Babergh.	✓
21/191 a	Payments made to suppliers.	✓

### Agenda item 8d **Planning Status**

Date	Reference	Address	Planning Details	PPC Minute	Parish Council Comments	Babergh DC Comments
	DC/21/04339	White House Farm, Straight Road	Erection of Cartlodge (following demolition of existing outbuilding).	21/157c	No objection	Granted 24/11/21
	DC/21/04340	White House Farm, Straight Road	Application for Listed Building Consent - Erection of Cartlodge (following demolition of existing outbuilding).	21/157d	No objection	Granted 24/11/21
	DC/21/04915	Rockalls Farm House, Millwood Road	Erection of two storey side extension and two storey new front extension.	21/168b	No objection	Permission Granted 05/11/2021
	DC/21/05230	Bankside, Mill Lane	Application for works to trees in conservation area: Felling of Leylandii Cypress Conifers crowding large mature Silver birch (and disrupting telegraph pole) and replacement with native hawthorn / blackthorn.	21/190a	No objection	No objection 22/10/2021
	DC/21/05091	Rockalls Lodge, Rockalls Road	Erection of an extension to provide accessible accommodation for the benefit of a registered disabled person, creation of portico to rear, replacement of existing roof covering and windows and reinstatement entrance door on rear elevation (following demolition of existing rear additions)	21/190b	No objection	Granted 17/11/21
	DC/21/05396	Little Acre, Spring Lane	Installation of 2no underwater LED lights to swimming pool (approved under DC/21/02692).	21/190c	No objection	Permission Granted 02/11/2021
	DC/21/05085	Woodview, White Street Green	Erection of single storey linked side extension.	21/190d	No objection	Permission Granted 22/10/2021
	DC/21/05654	Rockalls Cottage, Rockalls Road	Erection of single storey new entrance extension and linked extension between the house and an outbuilding to provide additional living accommodation.	21/190e	No objection	Granted 7/12/21
	DC/21/05584	Willow Cottage, Hadleigh Heath	Erection of single storey rear extensions and installation of 2no rear dormer windows (amended scheme as previously approved under DC/21/03708 and DC/18/03720).	21/190f	No objection	Granted 26/11/21
	DC/21/06235	Yeomans Cottage, Mill Street	Application for works to trees in a Conservation Area: Fell 2no Conifer (T1 and T5) and 2no dead Cherry (T2 and T3), and reduce height of 1no Conifer (T4) by 2.5m.	21/211a	No objection	no objection 10/12/21
	DC/21/06838	Land to the east of Alverstone Farm Cottage, Calais Street, Polstead, CO6 5DW.	severance of garden to form single property and vehicle access	22/8bi		
	DC/21/06656	ii.DC/21/06656 Brewery Farm Bower House Tye Polstead Suffolk CO6 5BZ.	change of use to form a residential annex	22/8bii		
	DC/21/06657	Brewery Farm Bower House Tye Polstead Suffolk CO6 5BZ	application for listed building consent	22/8biii		
	DC/21/06599	Broome Hill Martens Lane Polstead Suffolk CO6 5AQ	erection of 1st floor extension with the installation of new windows in existing dwelling	22/8biv		
	DC/21/06470	Ivy Tree Farm Polstead Road Shelley Suffolk IP7 5RE discharge of conditions DC/21/03237-	Condition 5 (Refuse Bins and Collection Areas), Condition 7 (Foul Drainage Disposal) and Condition 12 (RAMS Mitigation)	22/8bv		

## Finance Report

Date	Details	Ref	Receipts	Payments
18/11/21	Wave - Allotment Water	P30 102085	0.00	46.45
18/11/21	B Patrick - Footpaths October	P31 102086	0.00	240.00
18/11/21	DF Crimmin - Expenses Sept to November	P32 102087	0.00	685.43
30/11/21	DF Crimmin - Salary Oct & Nov	P33 102088	0.00	576.20
30/11/21	DF Crimmin - WFHA Oct & Nov	P33 102088	0.00	48.00
30/11/21	HMRC - Clerk Tax	P33 102089	0.00	144.00
18/11/21	S Palmer - Grass Cutting 2021	P34 102090	0.00	4,822.50
24/11/21	A Wade - Clerk Retirement Gift	P35 102091	0.00	100.78
24/11/21	DF Crimmin - Clerk Laptop	P36 102092	0.00	588.00
18/11/21	Credit from Scapors grass cutting	i 3254455	194.32	0.00

## Bank reconciliation

Account	Statement Date	Statement Balance	Actual Balance	Unpresented Cheques	Credits not shown	Difference
Community Account	30/11/21	£43,793.47	£41,651.06	£2,142.41	£0.00	£0.00
Premier Account	30/11/21	£3,335.09	£3,335.09	£0.00	£0.00	£0.00
Cash	30/11/21	£0.00	£0.00			£0.00
		£47,128.56	£44,986.15	£2,142.41	£0.00	

## Actual Vs Budget

	Budget	Actual		Reserves	Budget	Actual
Assets Brought Forward		£44,162.96				
<b><u>Income</u></b>			<b><u>Expenditure</u></b>			
Precept	£19,500.00	£19,500.00	Clerks Salary		£4,832.00	£2,880.80
Bank Interest	£0.00	£0.16	Admin		£2,305.00	£1,193.31
Recycling	£0.00	£0.00	Insurance		£580.00	£0.00
Grants	£745.00	£506.32	Audit Inspections		£380.00	£340.00
Allotment Rent	£120.00	£187.60	Donations		£1,000.00	£600.00
Wayleave	£22.00	£21.01	Chairman's Allowance		£60.00	£83.98
QDJ	£0.00	£0.00	Community Wardens		£1,180.00	£505.05
Donation	£0.00	£0.00	Dog & Litter Bins		£1,000.00	£850.99
Compensation	£0.00	£0.00	Footpaths		£2,800.00	£2,581.00
Other	£0.00	£0.00	Grass Cutting		£3,950.00	£4,822.50
CIL	£0.00	£0.00	Ditch Clearance		£0.00	£0.00
VAT Repayment	£0.00	£630.21	Maintenance		£1,200.00	£788.79
			Village Hall		£965.00	£0.00
			Projects		£1,500.00	£999.25
			Contingency		£500.00	£0.00
			CIL	£9,617.56	£0.00	£3,380.00
			VAT Paid		£0.00	£996.44
			<b>Total</b>	<b>£9,617.56</b>	<b>£22,252.00</b>	<b>£20,022.11</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>£20,387.00</b>	<b>£20,845.30</b>				
			Assets Carried Forward			£44,986.15
<b>Total</b>		<b>£65,008.26</b>	<b>Total</b>			<b>£65,008.26</b>

## Budget for 2022/23

	2020 / 21		2021 / 22		2022 / 23	
	Budget	Actual	Budget	Actual to Date	To year end	Budget
<b>Income</b>						
Bank Interest	0.00	1.51	0.00	0.16	<b>1.00</b>	0.00
Recycling	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Grants	745.00	744.32	745.00	506.32	<b>745.00</b>	745.00
Allotment Rent	120.00	163.50	120.00	187.60	<b>187.60</b>	120.00
Wayleave	22.00	21.01	22.00	21.01	<b>21.01</b>	22.00
QDJ	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Donation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Compensation	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Other	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
CIL	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
VAT Repayment	0.00	1,456.49	0.00	630.21	<b>630.21</b>	0.00
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>887.00</b>	<b>2,386.83</b>	<b>887.00</b>	<b>1,345.30</b>	<b>1,584.82</b>	<b>887.00</b>
<b>Precept</b>		<b>18,596.00</b>			<b>19,500.00</b>	
<b>Expenditure</b>						
Clerks Salary	4,704.98	4,321.21	4,832.00	2,880.80	<b>4,500.00</b>	4,700.00
Admin	2,300.00	1,405.29	2,305.00	1,193.31	<b>2,305.00</b>	2,355.00
Insurance	580.00	552.94	580.00	0.00	<b>580.00</b>	600.00
Audit Inspections	340.00	380.00	380.00	340.00	<b>340.00</b>	380.00
Donations	1,000.00	2,177.50	1,000.00	600.00	<b>1,000.00</b>	1,000.00
Chairman's Allowance	60.00	45.00	60.00	83.98	<b>100.00</b>	60.00
Community Wardens	1,180.00	1,000.00	1,180.00	505.05	<b>700.00</b>	710.00
Dog & Litter Bins	1,000.00	771.47	1,000.00	850.99	<b>850.99</b>	950.00
Footpaths	1,850.00	3,668.00	2,800.00	2,581.00	<b>3,200.00</b>	3,200.00
Grass Cutting	3,350.00	2,688.00	3,950.00	4,822.50	<b>4,825.00</b>	5,500.00
Ditch Clearance	200.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	<b>0.00</b>	0.00
Maintenance	1,200.00	964.29	1,200.00	788.79	<b>1,200.00</b>	1,200.00
Projects	1,500.00	246.90	1,500.00	999.25	<b>1,825.00</b>	4,000.00
Village Hall	965.00	0.00	965.00	0.00	<b>965.00</b>	965.00
Contingency	500.00	0.00	500.00	0.00	<b>500.00</b>	500.00
CIL	0.00	0.00	0.00	3,380.00	<b>7,537.00</b>	0.00
VAT Paid	0.00	630.21	0.00	996.44	<b>1,700.00</b>	0.00
<b>Total Expenditure</b>	<b>20,729.98</b>	<b>18,850.81</b>	<b>22,252.00</b>	<b>20,022.11</b>	<b>32,127.99</b>	<b>26,120.00</b>
<b>Reserves held by PPC</b>						
	2020 / 21		2021 / 22		2022 / 23	
	Start of year	End of year	Start of year	End of year	Start of year	End of year
<b>General Reserves 8/12ths of Expenditure from June 2021</b>	<b>17,413.33</b>	<b>10,413.38</b>	<b>12,545.40</b>	<b>12,545.40</b>	<b>17,413.33</b>	<b>17,413.33</b>
<b>Restricted - CIL</b>		<b>9,617.56</b>	<b>9,617.56</b>	<b>9,617.56</b>	<b>2,080.57</b>	<b>2,080.57</b>
<b>Earmarked Reserves</b>						
Asset Replacement		12,000.00	12,000.00	12,000.00	6,000.00	6,000.00
Play Equipment Replacement		8,000.00	8,000.00	8,000.00	5,625.89	5,625.89
Election Costs		2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00	2,000.00
<b>Total Earmarked Reserves</b>		<b>22,000.00</b>	<b>22,000.00</b>	<b>22,000.00</b>	<b>13,625.89</b>	<b>13,625.89</b>
<b>Total Reserves</b>		<b>42,030.94</b>	<b>44,162.96</b>	<b>44,162.96</b>	<b>33,119.79</b>	<b>30,386.79</b>
<b>Summary Position</b>						
	2020 / 21	2021 / 22	2022 / 23			
Total Reserves B/F	42,030.94	44,162.96	33,119.79			
Income ex Precept	2,386.83	1,584.82	887.00			
Precept	18,596.00	19,500.00	22,500.00			
<b>Total Income &amp; Reserves B/F</b>	<b>63,013.77</b>	<b>65,247.78</b>	<b>56,506.79</b>			
Expenditure	18,850.81	32,127.99	26,120.00			
Total Reserves C/F	44,162.96	33,119.79	30,386.79			
<b>Total Expenditure &amp; Reserves</b>	<b>63,013.77</b>	<b>65,247.78</b>	<b>56,506.79</b>			
<b>Tax Base</b>	<b>387.83</b>	<b>388.47</b>	<b>400.77</b>			
<b>Band D Council Tax</b>	<b>47.95</b>	<b>50.20</b>	<b>56.14</b>			

Bills to be paid

Suffolk County Council invoice 9513126 minor works £808.41

CO10 Gardening Specialists

Invoice 4092 30/11/21 £256

Invoice 4106 20/12/21 £192

Item Clerk's Salary

£312.96

Christine Hargan Month Ending 31 Dec 2021

Polstead Parish Council

Employee Details		Payments		Deductions	
This Month		Year to Date		Payment	
Taxable gross pay	£390.96	Taxable gross pay	£390.96		
Net pay	£312.96	Tax	£78.00		
		Employee National Insurance	£0.00		
		Employer National Insurance	£0.00		
					£312.96

Employer PAYE Reference: 475/YA56474

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HMRC £78

## Suffolk County Council report Georgia Hall

Children's services and adult care at the heart of Suffolk County Council's new budget plans  
Suffolk County Council has outlined how it plans to spend money on public services in 2022/23.

- More money to support children with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND)
- Extra resources for adults in need of care
- Additional funds to prevent flooding and fix footpaths

Under the proposals, the council's budget for 2022-23 would rise by 4.5% (from £598.2 to £625.4m). This additional money is generated by a 2.99% increase in Council Tax, and an increase in grants received from the Government.

The proposals will be presented at a scrutiny meeting in January, then put forward for approval by councillors in February.

The council's priorities are to:

- promote and support the health and wellbeing of all people in Suffolk
- strengthen the local economy
- protect and enhance the environment
- provide value for money for the Suffolk taxpayer

Some of the detail of the budget proposals, includes:

- £1.1m increase for the family services budget, specifically to address recommendations made by the recent independent SEND review
- £1m additional funding for Suffolk Highways over the next four years, for example to fund road signs and responsible verge cutting
- £10m to specifically deliver an increasing number of drainage schemes (over the next three years)
- £10m to improve footpath quality and access (over the next three years)
- £12.8m to decarbonise the buildings that we own (by 2030)
- Investments this year to set up future borrowing for bigger schemes, such as SEND and carbon reduction

Regarding Council Tax, the proposed 2.99% increase would be made up of a 1.99% increase in general Council Tax and a 1.00% increase dedicated to funding adult care.

This means costs for a household would look like:

- Band D property: £27.60 per week (80 pence per week increase from 2021-22)
- Band B property: £21.47 per week (62 pence per week increase from 2021-22) (Band B properties are the most common in Suffolk)

Councillor Rout continued:

"Proposing an increase in council tax is not a decision we take lightly, particularly when our costs of living are going up too.

"However, I think there is increasing recognition of the pressure our services are under. In our public consultation, there were more people who agreed that council tax would need to go up next year, compared to those that didn't. This was especially true for funding adult care.

"By paying this extra each week, we are all helping the council to provide its key services, and helping support those who need it most.

"If anyone does have concerns about paying their council tax, they may be eligible for the Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which is managed by our borough and district councils. You could receive help if you are on a low income, even if you are working."



The budget proposals will be presented at a Scrutiny Meeting on Tuesday 11 January 2022, with the final budget discussed at a Full Council meeting on 17 February 2022.

The Scrutiny meeting will be available to stream on Suffolk County Council's YouTube channel, and public questions can be submitted in advance, details available at [www.suffolk.gov.uk](http://www.suffolk.gov.uk)

Suffolk County Council approves extra £20m investment in highway drainage and footpaths

It was announced on December 7th that Cabinet members have committed an extra £20 million over the next three years into further improving Suffolk's highway drainage systems and footpaths.

In recognition of the increasing maintenance demand on these areas, councillors approved the use of £10 million to specifically deliver an increasing number of drainage schemes that deal with problems that affect larger numbers of people, and a further £10 million to improve footpath quality and access.

Suffolk Highways will use the drainage investment alongside funding from the Department for Transport to increase the number of highway flooding sites which are resolved, providing a highway network that is more resilient and accessible during heavy rain and severe weather events.

The footpath investment will be focused on urban areas and busy footpaths in rural areas - providing a safer and more accessible network that supports people accessing local bus services, health care services and local shopping precincts.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's cabinet member for operational highways and flooding, said:

"Committing this extra funding is a very welcome boost to our already significant improvement programmes in highways.

"The integrity of our county's drainage systems and footpaths are incredibly important to our livelihoods; functioning drainage systems and well-paved paths support us all to safely travel for work, social or leisure purposes or to access essential services.

"£20m divided across drainage and footpath services will enable our highways teams to resolve more drainage issues, where there may be significant highway or property flooding; and footpath improvements to provide a safer and more accessible network in urban and busy rural areas.

"I look forward to working closely with the teams to ensure that the additional funding is used appropriately; targeting areas that require essential improvements, on a priority basis. I will continue to keep Suffolk's residents informed on how any additional funding is going to be used."

Over 10,000 new LED streetlights installed across Suffolk

On December 17th Suffolk's LED replacement programme reached a new milestone, with over 10,000 streetlights upgraded with new, sustainable LEDs.

Bouygues Energies & Services, the contractor leading the programme has successfully installed 10,799 new lanterns and counting as part of the project to replace all 43,400 streetlights in the county. These lanterns use less energy and produce a more natural and focused light than the traditional orange glow of streetlights.

The project, which is due to complete by the end of 2022 will also allow opportunity for other streetlight owners within Suffolk such as Parish and District Councils to upgrade their streetlights as part of this process.

This upgrade supports Suffolk County Council's ambitions for becoming a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030. The benefits include; supporting a reduction in carbon emissions by saving energy and reducing light pollution, as well as providing clearer images on CCTV, traffic cameras and dashcam footage for the benefit of public safety.

The teams have been working their way through the west of the county and are making progress in Stowmarket and Sudbury.

Aside from the reduction in energy usage and minimising light pollution, the project will also bring down ongoing maintenance costs for the authority. The County Council expects to reduce its annual electricity costs on the streetlights by around 76%, saving more than £1.7 million a year.

By upgrading the lighting system with smart technology, this will increase the control the County Council has over its power consumption which will further reduce costs.

Prior to commencing in towns or parishes, Suffolk Highways is contacting those councils in case they wish to upgrade their parish-council owned street-lighting at the same time. All heritage-style lanterns which have been identified will be upgraded towards the end of the programme.

Councillor Paul West, Suffolk County Council's Cabinet Member responsible for Operational Highways and Flooding, said:

"Despite the obvious challenges we have faced since the start of this project, I am extremely happy with the progress being made to replace all county council streetlights in Suffolk.

"The project brings many positive changes, with the main one being the reduction in energy use. This will go towards Suffolk County Council's ambitions to become a carbon-neutral organisation by 2030. I congratulate the teams involved for their hard work and determination during trying times and look forward to seeing more of the county benefiting from these upgrades."

Show social care a little love this winter

On December 21st the county council launched its first ever dedicated campaign about Social Care.

The campaign is designed to help the public understand more about the Social Care sector in Suffolk, how the various partners and organisations work together to provide care for people, celebrate the amazing care professionals that work in the sector and ask the public for a little patience and flexibility as we all navigate through one of the toughest winters any of us can remember.

Adult Social Care in Suffolk is made up of a close partnership of different organisations including local councils, NHS Trusts, and several private care providers who, when taken together, employ around 22,000 individuals countywide. On any given day the sector supports over 9,500 people to live independently for longer whilst enjoying their lives to the fullest. The sector faces considerable challenges however, including the recruitment and retention of key workers, the increasing complexity of care packages and the ongoing impact of the Coronavirus pandemic, especially on care homes, home care and front-line workers.

To try and demonstrate how busy the sector is, every day the county council's Customer First contact centre handles, on average, over 551 phone calls, webchats, or emails from people about adult social care. On Christmas Day alone, there will be around 1,200 care home staff working hard to ensure that the 5,662 people currently living in Residential or Nursing Homes in Suffolk get to enjoy a good Christmas. Then, on top of that, there are the 3,000 or so home care workers who will be out and about across Suffolk, offering help and support to people who are receiving care within their own homes. Therefore, it is so important that we all show the Social Care sector a little love and support this winter. Please be patient when contacting any Social Care service. They are all

working as hard as they can to provide essential support for people. They will do their best to answer you and provide the best care possible as quickly as they can.

I also hope that this campaign will change the way we think and talk about those people who have made working in Social Care their career and passion. Too often those working in the sector are either incorrectly swept up and talked about as if being part of the NHS or worse, forgotten about in conversations entirely. These incredible people have made the choice to dedicate their working lives to the care of others. Whether social workers, mental health practitioners, occupational therapists, home care workers, care home and nursing home staff, and every other role I don't have space here to list - all of them, together, deserve our praise and thanks for the value they bring to people's lives, and our wider community (and yes – I think they should be paid more too). But, to start with, I invite you to join with me in challenging anyone you see or hear using words like "unskilled" to describe anyone working in Social Care. Ask them to stop, think, and then try again - because of all the words we could use to describe these wonderful people, "unskilled" is certainly not one of them. They are professional care givers and need to be treated with the respect they deserve.

I know that changing perceptions can take time, but we must make a start, and that start is this new campaign.

You can get involved very easily. To start with show your support for Social Care by sharing the council's posts on your own social media, using the hashtag #SupportSocialCare. You can help by being a little bit patient when contacting Social Care. Or go further and offer to collect an elderly neighbour's prescription or just by pay them a visit to see how they are.

However you decide to get involved, please show Social Care a little love this winter.

## Babergh District Councillor's Report January 2022

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### An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

You can find all the latest information on vaccinations from our local NHS partners, including information about all the clinics they offer, boosters and jabs for 12 to 15-year-olds, together with FAQs and eligibility criteria, on the [SNEE NHS COVID-19 Vaccination Service website](#).

Thank you to everyone who has helped to support the Covid-19 response this month, which has seen the Government revert to Plan B and our NHS colleagues ramping up the vaccination rollout in a race against time to combat the spread of the Omicron variant.

We continue to use our social media channels to keep everyone informed and to share messages from our NHS and public sector partners – including information on vaccinations and boosters, FAQs and eligibility and advice for residents on protecting themselves and others.

We are ready to support our most vulnerable residents and communities through the Christmas period and beyond as case numbers continue to rise, with information on our website and across our social media channels regarding how to access help.

We also await further information from the Government regarding the further financial support for businesses announced this week, so we can distribute funds to those eligible across our districts as soon as possible.

We also continue to provide regular bulletins giving a snapshot of the current Covid-19 situation in Suffolk - along with case numbers and updates on the work being carried out as part of Suffolk's Local Outbreak Control Plan. You can find the bulletins [via the Suffolk County Council website](#).

## **[Babergh and Mid Suffolk leaders offer thanks and urge residents to get boosted now](#)**

The leaders of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils, Cllr John Ward and Cllr Suzie Morley, are amongst Suffolk public sector leaders sending a joint message to Suffolk residents. [Read the full story](#)

## **[Free bus and taxi services across Suffolk for all those travelling for a vaccination](#)**

People in Suffolk can today take advantage of free bus and taxi rides, the 'vaxi taxi', to get to their vaccination appointment or to a vaccination drop-in clinic. [Read the full story](#)

## **[Help is at hand this Christmas](#)**

Suffolk residents can still seek support over the festive period, with help available for anyone who is self-isolating, facing financial difficulties or struggling with their health and wellbeing.

This includes Home But Not Alone, which provides assistance with obtaining groceries and medication to those unwell with Covid, or self-isolating, who cannot arrange delivery of these items themselves or don't have friends or family to help out.

Anyone in genuine need of help can call the service – staffed on weekdays between 9am and 5pm – on freephone **0800 876 6926**. It will remain open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and over the festive bank holidays for emergency calls only. [Read the full story](#)

## **[Blueprint for districts' future development to progress](#)**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have welcomed a decision by Planning Inspectors to allow work on their Joint Local Plan to continue – meaning the councils can ensure the right developments happen in the right places at the right time. [Read the full story](#)

## **[Work begins on carbon-cutting solar carport schemes](#)**

Works have begun on installing solar carports which will help power and slash the carbon emissions of two council-owned leisure centres - as part of council plans to tackle climate change. [Read the full story](#)

## **[School's Out schemes support families through the Christmas holidays](#)**

Hey Presto! Magic, circus skills, football, swimming, and outdoor cooking, are amongst the fun activities on offer from Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils and partners during the Christmas school holidays. [Read the full story](#)

## **Scheme to support new small businesses marks successful six months**

A pilot scheme to support small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk has been hailed a success as it reaches its six-month milestone. [Read the full story](#)

## **Councils urge National Highways to ‘unblock Copdock’**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have submitted a joint response to [a consultation by National Highways on proposed improvements to the Copdock Interchange](#) – urging the creation of a new link road to keep business traffic flowing freely. [Read the full story](#)

## **New medical centre for Sudbury gets green light**

Councillors have given the green light to a new three-storey GP surgery and pharmacy for Sudbury, helping to futureproof healthcare for the town. [Read the full story](#)

## **“You must pay!” Council’s warning to developers**

Babergh District Council secured an out-of-court settlement of £163,590 in unpaid Community Infrastructure Levy from developers Marden Essex Ltd. [Read the full story](#)

## **Funding for Brooklands Primary School expansion given the go-ahead**

A Community Infrastructure Levy bid from Suffolk County Council to help finance further school places in Brantham received the green light, with Babergh’s cabinet approving £345,360 towards the expansion. [Read the full story](#)

## **Help for Rough sleepers**

Freezing temperatures are an obvious hazard to those who find themselves sleeping rough in our districts.

If you are aware of a rough sleeper, please contact one of our housing team advisors by calling on 0300 1234 000 or report it via [StreetLink](#) with as much detail as possible to help our officers find them quickly and offer them the support they need.

## **Meetings**

Cabinet, Council and Planning Committee meetings can be watched, either live or catch-up, on our [YouTube Channel](#).

For agendas and minutes, please visit the [Democratic Services homepage](#).

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