

Councillors' briefing notes for town and parish councils



May 2020

Dear councillor,

As you know, you are currently receiving weekly updates on our response to COVID-19 in our districts and **we suggest that you review the most recent update to see the most up-to-date situation** in terms of our support for local business, communities and impact on our services ahead of your town or parish meetings.

You also receive all media releases as they are issued and can see them on our website here, but to assist you in giving your towns or parishes a recent rundown of activity, we include all recent announcements over recent weeks below:

We know you've 'bin' waiting

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are poised to re-launch their garden waste collections during May, having stopped them to protect essential collections during COVID-19.

Read the full story here.

£17m COVID-19 grant funding unclaimed by small businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Over £28m has been awarded to eligible small businesses, shop owners and leisure organisations in Babergh and Mid Suffolk since the launch of the Government's Small Business Grant and Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grants at the end of March.

Read the full story here.

Local community groups to receive over £64,000 in emergency funding

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils have approved grants totalling more than £64,000 to support local communities in their response to COVID-19.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities receive funding boost of more than £4.5 million

Communities across Babergh and Mid Suffolk have been awarded Community Infrastructure Levy funding in excess of £4.5 million since the start of the year.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Cyber cons capitalising on coronavirus crisis

Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are urging vigilance against rising numbers of coronavirus cons, with over 2,000 online scams identified nationally in the last month alone.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Council meetings to resume remotely

Council meetings for Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are set to resume remotely following the Government's decision to grant local authorities' powers to meet and make decisions using digital technology to ensure public safety.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Meet the heroes helping Babergh through the coronavirus crisis

Communities across Babergh have rallied together in response to Covid-19, and now we want to recognise and support their extraordinary work.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Small businesses in Suffolk urged to access £200m pot of COVID-19 aid

Eligible businesses across Suffolk are being urged to access grants of £10,000 or £25,000 to help them through COVID-19 crisis.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Further financial support for struggling households in Babergh and Mid Suffolk

Families already struggling with financial hardship are to be given further support to reduce their council tax bills, with letters due through the doors of more than 4,000 households in Babergh and Mid Suffolk over coming days.

[Read the full story here.](#)

£45m COVID-19 grant funding available to small businesses in Babergh

Over £14m has been awarded to eligible small businesses in Babergh in the first wave of payments from the business grant fund created to help businesses through the COVID-19 crisis, with almost £30m still available to claim.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Joint statement on COVID-19 from Babergh and Mid Suffolk's political group leaders

Although the political make up of both Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils is varied and diverse, the resolve to work together to look after our communities, protect the vulnerable and safeguard our local economy during the COVID-19 pandemic is entirely the same.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Businesses urged to access financial support and guidance during COVID-19 crisis

Businesses in Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being urged to find out what financial support is available to them as well as seeking advice and guidance in the wake of the COVID-19 crisis.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Emergency funding pot available to help local community groups

Community groups and organisations can now apply for immediate grants of up to £2,500 as part of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' response to COVID-19.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Leader pays tribute to former councillor and respected community stalwart

Babergh District Council leader Cllr John Ward today paid tribute to long-serving former councillor Nick Ridley OBE, who died on Tuesday following a short illness.

[Read the full story here.](#)

Homelessness - "Everyone in" Scheme

All Local Authorities were requested by government to ensure that anyone who was street homeless or currently living in dormitory style emergency housing should be accommodated to minimise the risk of them contracting Covid-19.

A Housing Task and Finish Group has been created in response to the Coronavirus pandemic, following the government directive and for local authorities and agencies to source immediate accommodation to those who have certain underlying health conditions, have nowhere to safely self-isolate and rough sleepers. The group reports directly to the countywide Collaborative Communities Covid-19 Board as part of the emergency response to the Coronavirus pandemic.

Membership of the HTFG consists of Suffolk's Local Authorities, Children and Young People and Adult Services from Suffolk County Council, CCG, Public Health, Probation and Police – all working in partnership to support the drive to keep residents safe and ensure that everyone has a safe place to stay and sleep

[Read the full story here](#)