Your briefing notes for town and parish councils

Babergh & Mid Suffolk Councils

January 2024

New Year in new homes – council housing boost
Tenants have picked up the keys to more than 120 new affordable, high-quality council homes across Babergh and Mid Suffolk over the last 12 months.

New sports facilities for Stowmarket under first stage of major project
Improved sports facilities in Stowmarket, including a new 3G football pitch, multi-use games area and mini athletics track, could move a step closer following a meeting of Mid Suffolk District Council cabinet on January 9.

Business case for £18m Skills and Innovation Centre at Gateway 14 approved
The state-of-the-art centre at Gateway 14, Stowmarket, will cost up to £18.75m, and offer opportunities for business growth, innovation, enterprise and training, with a particular focus on emerging sectors linked to 'green' and 'digital' skills.

Councils award funding to provide warm spaces this winter
31 community projects have received a share of more than £36,000 to help their communities this winter.

Councillors to consider tax premiums for second homes and empty properties
Councillors at Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils are considering higher tax premiums for owners of second homes and long-term empty properties, following the introduction of new government rules.

Last chance for parents to claim free tree before January
Applications for a popular free tree scheme for new parents who welcomed arrivals in 2023, will close on January 10.

£2 million pledged to accelerate climate emergency action in Suffolk
A further £2million has been pledged by Suffolk Public Sector Leaders to tackle the climate emergency.

Orchestra helps council hit the right notes
Mid Suffolk District Council has partnered with a national charity and a renowned professional orchestra to bring an exciting musical experience to older residents and those living with long-term health conditions such as dementia and Parkinsons.

Homelessness and rough sleeping strategy open for consultation

The councils are asking residents and organisations for their view on tackling homelessness and rough sleeping to help shape their future strategy. The consultation runs until January 14.