



Mid Suffolk District Council

Report for The Stonhams Ward – March 2019

Mid Suffolk adopts budget for 2019/20

At a Council meeting on 21 February, Mid Suffolk adopted a budget for the coming year. This includes a Council Tax rise of 2%, while maintaining the Council Tax Reduction Scheme that will see the poorest residents pay just 5% of their bill. Council Tax bills are being sent out this month and come into effect on 1 April. You can find more details in our [press release](#), or in the 2019/20 [Budget Book online](#).

Popular Tree of Life scheme continues in 2019

Following the huge popularity of Mid Suffolk's Tree for Life pilot scheme last year, the scheme will be continuing in 2019. It offers every family in Mid Suffolk celebrating a new child in 2019, both by birth and adoption, a free tree to plant to mark the occasion.

The pilot scheme received 179 successful applications, representing approximately 21% of new births in Mid Suffolk in 2018, which is far ahead of the uptake seen in the first year of similar schemes across the country. You can find out more, including how to apply, [online](#).

Councils' Public Database wins prestigious award

A joint Mid Suffolk and Babergh database that is the first of its kind in the country has been awarded the iESE Bronze Award for Transforming through technology. The Exacom database, which gives web-users access to data on Developer Contributions for development in Babergh and Mid Suffolk going back to 1974, is the first of its kind in the country with Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils recently designated Pilot Authorities by the software's developer. Read the full press release on [our website](#).

Funding boost to give Needham Lake brand new facilities

Mid Suffolk has approved up to £600,000 for the development of a brand-new visitor centre at Needham Lake. The proposals are to build a high quality environmentally friendly visitor information centre including a café and new public convenience facilities.

Needham Lake already attracts in excess of 300,000 visitors a year, with Visit England having ranked it as the second most visited free attraction in the East of England. The lake provides a great place for the community to get active and spend time in the natural environment. It is envisaged that works will start in the Autumn with the visitor centre opening in time for the 2020 Summer season. You can find out more [online](#).



Pioneering project helps young people take the next step

A new partnership in Mid Suffolk is helping young people take their next step into employment, or on to further education and training. The Together Programme is run by The Mix in Stowmarket, with funding from Mid Suffolk, Suffolk County Council and local employer PPG, and is thought to be one of the first of its kind in Suffolk.

Local firms are being invited to work with specialist youth workers to shape the programme to improve the skills and aspirations of young people aged 15 to 24, and ensure they get the future job candidates they need. You can read the full story in our [press release](#).

OVO Energy Women's Tour coming to Stowmarket

The OVO Energy Women's Tour, the country's most prestigious women's cycle race, will be coming through Suffolk this summer. The first stage of the race will be in our county, racing from Beccles to Stowmarket on Monday 10 June 2019. The route will also pass through the north of our district, including Stradbroke, Eye and Walsham le Willows on its way from Framlingham to Bury St Edmunds, before turning back to Stowmarket and approaching through Felsham and Rattlesden.

Mid Suffolk are proud to be a partner of the Tour. Find more details on the [Women's Tour website](#).

Register to Vote for the Local Elections

With the Local Elections due to be held on 2 May this year, the deadline to register to vote is 12 April. Anyone who has moved into a new house since their last registration must re-register, as well as any new voters in the area. Registration is quick and easy and can be completed online via the [Gov.uk website](#).

Plans for Housing in Needham Market approved

Mid Suffolk's proposals for new housing in Needham Market, bringing the former District Council offices and the former Middle School site back into use, have been approved at a Planning Referrals Committee meeting on 27 February.

The plans include a total of 135 new homes, 38% of which will be affordable housing, as well as a library and a retail unit. The proposals also safeguard the listed buildings on the sites. You can find more details [online](#).

Serial Fly Tipper sentenced to 15 months

A man found guilty of fly-tipping over 28 tons of commercial and industrial waste in two locations, including Walsham Le Willows, has been sentenced to 15 months imprisonment. Mr Nigel Roberts was caught after a long investigation by Babergh and Mid Suffolk, which included using evidence



from GPS tracking data on the waste lorry used in the fly-tipping. You can find our full press release on [our website](#).

Mid Suffolk Leader supports call for Government Rural Strategy

Mid Suffolk's Leader, Cllr Nick Gowrley, is supporting the Rural Service Network in their campaign for a new central government strategy to recognise the needs of rural communities and develop a rural strategy. 17% of the UK's population are in rural communities, and their needs are often not considered in central government decision making when setting financial grants or introducing new policies. You can read the full story on our [website](#).

Hot topics on social media

- Your Council magazine
- Tree for Life Scheme continues in 2019
- Council's proposals for Needham Market approved
- Up to £600,000 approved for development of Needham Lake visitor centre

Meetings

- 13 March – Development Control Committee A
- 13 March – Planning Referrals Committee
- 13 March – Shared Revenues Partnership Joint Committee
- 18 March – Joint Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- 18 March – Full Council
- 27 March – Development Control Committee B
- 5 April – Licensing and Regulatory Committee

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