

District Councillors report to 16 October 2020

Firstly can I thank the Doctors and nurses at our local Surgery and the Debenham Leisure Centre for providing their 'Drive Through' Flu event. It reminded me of the movie with Clint Eastwood 'Right turn Clive' when his 'partner' would put his arm out of the window! I do hope if and when we get a Covid vaccination we make sure no one parks on the road leading up to the event as it did cause problems and Jodie had to spend some considerable time directing traffic. The whole thing was brilliantly organised.

Covid is obviously a big concern to everyone and even more so now. Earlier this month, West and East Suffolk saw a steep incline in cases putting them on the regional watchlist criteria set by Public health England. This is when weekly cases reach 30 per 100,000 of the population. Babergh, Mid Suffolk and Ipswich have now also reached that figure. Compared to cases in the North of England, these figures are still low, but rates are increasing each day. The following table shows the district case rate per 100,000 population as of yesterday (October 15)

Babergh's rate of 61.35 is up from 30.42 last week and Mid Suffolk's rate of 40.43 is up from 27.91 last week. In terms of actual case numbers this means 57 cases in Babergh up from 28 the week before and 42 cases in Mid Suffolk up from 29.

Suffolk County Council and joint partnership groups are doing a sterling job of keeping us informed of the latest figures. Councillor Hicks is the Chair of the Local outbreak Engagement Board. I understand locally that some people are forgetting the virus is still very much with us and I can only reiterate 'Hands Face Space' particularly in shops. It is easy to forget and walk too closely or queue next to others and forget. We are all responsible to keep this virus out of our area.

There is support for Low-income earners told to self isolate but they have to meet certain criteria

Please note much of the information is on Mid Suffolk's Website.

Planning continues at a pace and you are reminded if you wish to make comment on the governments white paper you must do so by the end of October 2020 (this month!) I have been spending many hours working with officers and members on a cross party discussion on the joint response to this white paper.

Councillor Barry Humphreys MBE was elected Chairman of Mid Suffolk District Council at the last full Council Meeting and I was re-elected as Chair of Development Control B and also Chair of Licensing.

Sadly there have been instances of Fly Tipping. Can people remain vigilant to stop the blight on our communities.

On a happy but not, Council Note, a friend of mine ran the Virtual London Marathon round our lovely country lanes and along with her husband and many friends and family cheering her on and organising the route, she ran in atrocious weather, and managed to complete course only 3 minutes outside her best time! What a great community spirit we have.

Kathie Guthrie

Councillor for Debenham Ward

