

District Councillor David Burn – Report for Palgrave Parish Council 20 February 2019

Draft Budget to be considered at Full Council agreed

The Council will be considering a proposed budget for 2019/20 at their meeting on 21 February. This budget includes proposals to offer discounts of up to 100% on council tax for care leavers, supporting the most vulnerable in society, while also proposing a Business Rates Relief policy for small retailers, including shops, cafes and restaurants.

The Budget also includes proposals to raise the District Council precept of Council Tax by just £3.26 a year for a Band D property – equivalent to only 6p a week. This allows the council to put forward a budget that proposes no cuts in front line services. You can see the full details of the budget councillors will be asked to vote on in the 'Budget Book' for 2019/20 [online](#).

Your Council Magazine on its way to Your Door

A new publication is on its way to every household in the district: Your Council, a magazine that lays out what Mid Suffolk does and what we have achieved over the last four years, has been put together ahead as we approach the end of this council's term. Designed in an accessible, consumer-magazine format, it gives residents an idea of the challenges faced and the decisions made in local government, perhaps on a scale most householders won't have realised – for example, how many homeowners who apply to build a conservatory realise they are just one of over 4,000 planning applications dealt with by our planning team since 2015? The magazine aims to give residents a greater understanding of the council and its work.

The magazine should be arriving by the end of this month. While this will be available [online via our website](#), we have also chosen to send a copy to every household for the simple reason that when we have asked the public how they wish to be communicated with, a majority asked for information in the form of a leaflet than via any other channel. Despite this we have kept costs low, at an equivalent of just 32p per household – a detail printed on the back of each magazine.

New Parking Plan for Mid Suffolk to be Drawn Up

Mid Suffolk's Cabinet has voted to go out to public consultation on a draft Joint Area Parking Plan with Babergh District Council. The plan, which does not include any proposals to increase car parking charges, sets out eight parking policy objectives it intends to achieve. These include establishing standard on-street parking scheme operating hours, utilising off-street parking places to assist with traffic management and more.

The draft plan will be subject to a six week consultation, the details of which will be published shortly. For more information read the [full story online](#).

Public Developers' Contributions Database Nominated for National Award

Mid Suffolk and Babergh's [Exacom database](#) – giving the public access to figures for developer contributions towards infrastructure all the way back to 1974 – has been nominated for the Royal Town Planning Institute's (RTPI) Awards for Planning Excellence.

The database, which is the first of its kind in the country, is in the running for an award within the Excellence in Tech Within Planning Practice category. As it is the first such database to be published Mid Suffolk, along with Babergh, have been designated Pilot Authorities by the developer. You can find out more on [our website](#).

New Online Portal for Customers Launched

A new MyAccount portal has been launched, enabling residents to view bills, reminders and notices, apply for discounts and update personal details from home. The portal is run by the Shared Revenue Partnership, which consists of Mid Suffolk District Council, Babergh District Council and Ipswich Borough Council.

The portal allows access to paperless eBilling for Council Tax and/or Business Rates as well as updates on Housing Benefit and Council Tax reduction claims and many other services. The free service is available via our websites – find out more in the [full press release](#).

Are You Election Ready?

With May's elections looming, we've published a FAQ on our website, including details of which bodies will be holding elections, how to register to vote and where to find information on how to become a councillor. You can share this page and help us urge everyone to register to vote before 12 April. View the [full webpage](#) for more details.

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