

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

At Public Health Suffolk's request the government recently designated Suffolk as an 'enhanced response area', recognising the high incidence of Covid cases within the past month or two [Read the full story](#). The ERA designation lasts for up to five weeks and brings additional support and funding to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure.

Next week, every home in the county will receive a leaflet reminding them of the simple steps they can take to reduce the spread of the virus. This will be supported by radio ads, social media promotion and will appear on billboards across Suffolk.

We are also launching a fun campaign aimed at a younger audience, encouraging people to think about the things they enjoy - such as a family dinner, or time out with friends – and how relatively small acts can help ensure they can continue safely this winter. Again, this will be supported in a range of ways, including across our social media. Do please look out for it and share with your own friends to help get the message out.

Work to continue on blueprint for districts' future development

Public examination of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Council's Joint Local Plan – the strategic blueprint for future development of the districts - has been paused by the Planning Inspector to allow the councils further time to review its evidence. [Read the full story](#)

Feedback sought on future development in districts

Babergh and Mid Suffolk councils recently published their draft five-year housing land supply statements – outlining the anticipated supply of new homes between now and 2026. We are inviting comments on the robustness of the housing land supply information and evidence related to the delivery of sites by midday on Friday 17 December 2021. [Read the full story](#)

Residents have their say on name for Needham Lake's café and visitor centre

As work continues on the development of the new café and visitor centre at Needham Lake, Mid Suffolk District Council called on the community to help with selecting a name for it.

[Read the full story](#)

STOP PRESS: The most favoured option – Duck and Teapot – has now been announced.

Tree for Life scheme welcomes applications from new parents

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's popular Tree for Life scheme, which offers a free tree for new parents, is now open for 2021 applications. The scheme, which benefits families, communities and the environment by boosting tree coverage across our districts, is open to all families in the districts who have or are welcoming a new arrival between 1 January and 31 December 2021. Parents who may have lost a child during the same period are also able to apply for a remembrance tree. [Read the full story](#)

£1.5m funding boost for Babergh and Mid Suffolk communities

Town and Parish Councils across Babergh and Mid Suffolk received £1.5 million in neighbourhood CIL last month – paving the way for a range of vital community facilities and projects. [Read the full story](#)

Green light for further funding to support vital infrastructure in Mid Suffolk

In addition, £118,000 of CIL funding was allocated last month for community centre improvements and sports facilities in Debenham, Elmswell, Rickingham and Framsdon. [Read the full story](#)

David Burn