

**From:** "David Burn (Cllr)" <[David.Burn@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:David.Burn@midsuffolk.gov.uk)>

**Subject:** My report at last Thursday's PC meeting

**Date:** 19 October 2020 at 13:55:12 BST

**To:** Parish - Stoke Ash and Thwaite <[lynne.cockerton@btopenworld.com](mailto:lynne.cockerton@btopenworld.com)>

**Cc:** Gordon Leggett <[gordonleggett0312@live.co.uk](mailto:gordonleggett0312@live.co.uk)>

Lynne –

As promised, here is a brief summary of what I talked about at the parish council meeting on 15 October:

1. There is still some money available from MSDC's Locality Award for projects proposed by any eligible community group in the parish. Anyone interested should e-mail [david.burn@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:david.burn@midsuffolk.gov.uk) for an application form. The closing date for applications in this financial year (ending on 31<sup>st</sup> March 2021) is 31<sup>st</sup> December 2020.
2. A new, Suffolk-wide telephone helpline was set up on 1<sup>st</sup> October to help access information or support relating to debt, benefits, housing or employment. The phonenumber, **0800 068 3131**, is open from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.
3. Every year, a local planning authority must assess its 'Five-Year Housing Land Supply', which is a measure of whether it has sufficient available sites on which to build the annual housing requirement for the next five years. Failure to reach this 5-year figure means that it becomes difficult to resist planning applications on land where they would normally be refused. In 2017/18, after a period of failing to achieve the 5-year figure, Mid Suffolk's had reached 6.5 years. By 2018/19 it had fallen to 5.6 years (mainly because the annual housing requirement figure, set by government, had increased). The latest 2019/20 figure was announced on 8 October and it has now reached a very healthy 7.6 years.
4. The new *Joint Local Plan* ('joint' because it will guide planning in both Mid Suffolk and Babergh district councils) is nearing its final stages. Both councils will discuss the draft submission version at separate council meetings early next month and will decide whether it should progress to its next consultation, after which it will be submitted for examination. This is expected to be in the early months of next year, after which we will have no control over when it is returned to us for adoption but it is prudent to think in terms of 'about a year'.

Although I have said in 1. Above that would-be applicants should e-mail me for an application form, I have attached one here for your information and to circulate to your members if you wish to do so. I have no objection to you or any of your councillors sending a copy of the form to

prospective applicants provided you tell the applicant to return the form to me, not to the person indicated on page 5. This is because I must complete page 3 before the form is submitted. When I've finished with it I will make sure it gets to the right officer.

Here is an expansion of item 2, above, that Gordon can adapt for inclusion in the village magazine:

A new telephone helpline started up on 1 October 2020 to help people across Suffolk access information or support relating to debt, benefits, housing or employment.

Since March this year it is estimated that the number of people claiming Universal Credit in Suffolk has increased by 75% (approx. 24,000); and there has been a 238% increase in the amount of food handed out to single adults and families from Suffolk's foodbanks. There are also 104,000 people still furloughed from their jobs.

Citizens Advice Suffolk Alliance, which includes the eight Citizens Advice Bureaus across Suffolk, and Anglia Care Trust and Ipswich Housing Action Group will deliver advice and support to people through a single phonenumber.

**The number to call is 0800 068 3131**

Call handlers will use resources and information from across many Suffolk organisations and specialist providers, which can be tailored to individual needs.

Regards,

David

*Cllr David Burn*

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Cabinet Member for Planning*

*and Member for Palgrave Ward,*

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