

## District Councillor Report for Bacton Ward – January 2022

(Bacton, Cotton, Finningham, Westhorpe & Wyverstone Parishes)

Covid /omicron effects	<p>With the current high level of infections and in line with government guidelines, the chief executive has decided that most of the Council's formal meetings and committees will move to being virtual for the remaining part of the winter. Without central government changing the law, this means that these meetings will become advisory only rather than decision-making, and the formal decisions will be taken separately under delegated powers, using the virtual meetings to steer the decisions.</p>
MSDC Annual Monitoring Report	<p>This report (available through the Council's website) gives details of housing completions, outstanding permissions and other data related to housing development in Mid Suffolk.</p> <p>672 new dwellings were built in Mid Suffolk District last year, which represents 131% of the current annual target set (513 dwellings) by the standard national methodology. In Mid Suffolk the total outstanding planning permissions (as at 01/04/21) stand at 7,444 dwellings, which are either not started or under construction.</p> <p>Mid Suffolk District Council has made a total of £1,017,746.36 CIL payments to town and parish councils.</p> <p>In Mid Suffolk affordable housing accounted for 29% of all net new completions. 29% of all residential completions (gross) were delivered on previously developed land, compared with the target (50%) set out in the adopted Core Strategy and Core Strategy Focused Review.</p>
Joint Local Plan	<p>The Inspectors paused the examination for the Joint Local Plan to allow officers to re-consult and further clarify the spatial strategy and review part of the evidence base. A meeting was held between the two parties on 16<sup>th</sup> December to clarify this. It was agreed that the Plan will be split into two parts – Part 1 covering all the social, environmental and economic policies and Part 2 covering those relating to housing numbers, distribution etc.</p> <p>It is expected that Part 1 will move forward while work is being done on Part 2. The Inspector acknowledged that 90% of Mid Suffolk's housing target is already allocated (either via existing permissions or sites allocated via Neighbourhood Plans) and that this is central to future policies.</p>
Babergh and Mid Suffolk Overview and Scrutiny Committee	<p>The Joint Overview &amp; Scrutiny Committee has set up a task and finish group to review rural transport. The review of the Citizens Advice provision in Babergh and Mid Suffolk was carried out in December. Concerns around future funding and closer working with the district council around housing debt were highlighted.</p>
Large developments	<p>Clearly 2022 and maybe the next couple of years will see a lot of building activity in Bacton, with the attendant disruption due to lorry movements, road closures etc. as several large development sites start work. Together with County Councillor Andrew Stringer and Bacton Parish Council, I have met with representatives of all the developers in order that a co-ordinated approach can be found to reduce disruption to a minimum. We intend to convene regular meetings throughout this year.</p>

Councillor Andy Mellen

[Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk](mailto:Andrew.Mellen@midsuffolk.gov.uk)

Telephone: 01449 782971