

An update on Covid-19 in Suffolk

In view of numbers of Covid cases in Suffolk rising above the national average in recent weeks, Public Health Suffolk had asked the government to designate the county as an 'enhanced response area' (ERA) for up to five weeks. The designation has now been made and will secure additional support, funding and resources to help the NHS avoid unsustainable pressure. [Read the full story](#)

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](#)

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, Rickinghall and Framsdon. [Read the full story](#)

David Burn