



## **Stonham Ward**

**July 2020**

### **Joint statement on tackling climate change from Mid Suffolk's group leaders**

The political make up of our councils is varied and diverse, but we are united in our view that the climate emergency is the biggest issue that affects us all, alongside responding to and supporting our communities' recovery from COVID-19.

"We recognised the part we play in tackling this global issue at local level when we adopted climate emergency motions in 2019. But we know that we cannot do this alone.

"While there is still much work to be done, we welcome the collaborative approach taken to produce these latest proposals; with a joint, cross-party task force exploring how both councils can deliver real environmental change in our districts and to achieve our goal of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

"Together, we can help to ensure our communities can look forward to bright, healthy and sustainable futures."

### **Babergh and Mid Suffolk's blueprint for a sustainable future**

Councillors are set to consider a raft of environmental measures to help Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils achieve their ambition of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

Cabinets for both councils are due to meet next month to consider the proposals – developed by a cross-party Environment and Climate Change Task Force - welcomed in a joint statement from all political group leaders.

If agreed, the proposals will form the councils' first Carbon Reduction Management Plan, setting out how they aim to fulfil their ambitions of becoming carbon neutral within the next ten years.

The proposed actions are the first steps in achieving the long term objective to reduce the councils' current emissions of approximately 5,452 tonnes (Mt) of



## **Stonham Ward**

carbon dioxide equivalent (CO<sub>2</sub>e) per year, looking into how best to invest in order to reduce this to net zero.

The proposals, which are on the agenda for Babergh and Mid Suffolk's simultaneous cabinet meeting on 6 July, follow the climate emergency motions passed by both councils in 2019 and the creation of the Joint Environment and Climate Change Task Force.

The task force has taken expert advice on which areas to target first for the greatest impact – working with Groundwork Suffolk to analyse current emissions and develop recommendations.

Headline proposals include:

- Exploring the use of the councils' owned or controlled commercial estates, for renewable energy generation schemes, solar ports and battery storage
- Working with the councils' leisure providers to move towards both green tariff energy, and the buildings becoming less energy intensive to operate
- Transitioning existing diesel-powered waste and fleet vehicles to a more sustainable fuel source such as waste vegetable oil, with a longer term ambition with partners to introduce electric or hydrogen fuelled vehicles
- Identifying further efficiencies and opportunities for waste collections in line with the Government's anticipated Environment Bill
- Introducing an electric vehicle charging plan, cooperatively with our wider partners, to explore opportunities for expanding EV charging infrastructure in the districts
- Actively encouraging a digital-first culture at the councils and exploring incentives to reduce staff mileage
- Increasing tree and hedgerow planting and coverage across the district
- Ensuring new and current council housing is as efficient and environmentally friendly as possible, whilst also working more proactively with private housing developers to build sustainable communities
- Working with partners to improve the infrastructure necessary to increase sustainable travel in our key towns and beyond
- Continue to work on Suffolk-wide initiatives with our partner authorities through the Suffolk Climate Change Partnership and Suffolk Waste Partnership along with other business or academic organisations

**Cllr Elisabeth Malvisi, Babergh District Council's cabinet member for environment, said:**

"These proposals, if approved, will form the blueprint of how we will tackle the environment and climate change challenge here in Babergh. It also demonstrates how we along with Mid Suffolk, are working together towards making Suffolk the greenest county.



## **Stonham Ward**

“We want to make sure that our district remains a place we’re proud to call home, but also a destination for tourists to visit. Reducing the councils’ dependency on fossil fuels and developing sustainable travel at the heart of our town centres is a priority.

“We’re not starting from scratch - we already play a key role in several environmental partnerships and initiatives including Tree for Life, the Suffolk Climate Change and Suffolk Waste Partnerships, and offering paperless billing to all our residents. However, we recognise there’s a lot more we have to do, but these proposals will help us take our next steps in tackling climate change.”

**Cllr Jessica Fleming, Mid Suffolk District Council’s cabinet member for environment, said:**

“These rightly ambitious proposals are the outcome of cross-party collaboration at both councils to explore how we, along with Babergh, aim to meet our 2030 carbon neutral ambitions.

“While we recognise our influence and key role in tackling climate change within the district and in Suffolk, we know we cannot do it alone. We will be working with the Government to deliver its 25-year Environment Plan, and make best use of the powers and resources available to local authorities to achieve a truly sustainable future for the country.

“We also want our residents to get involved, with everyone able to take at least small steps to becoming more environmentally conscious, such as only buying what you need, wasting less, and cycling and walking more.”

The councils will continue to work with partners across the county and region, including the LEP and public sector leaders, towards the Suffolk-wide ambition to be carbon neutral by 2030. This work will include supporting town and parish councils with their own aspirations to reduce their carbon emissions.

Residents are also being asked to reflect on how they can play their part in reducing Suffolk’s carbon footprint, whether it’s by reducing their food waste and waste in general, taking part in initiatives such as Refill Suffolk, or getting their recycling right; with a [carbon footprint calculator available on the Green Suffolk website](#).

A subgroup of the task force has also been created to look at how the councils can strengthen biodiversity in the districts – with work now underway following an initial delay, due to the emergency response required by the councils to support communities through the immediate impact of COVID-19.



## Stonham Ward

### Mid Suffolk District Council to study green development opportunities

Posted by Communications on 29 June 2020 | Comments

Mid Suffolk District Council and the [Greater South East Energy Hub \(GSEEH\)](#) have announced up to £40,000 match funding for a study into low carbon opportunities for Gateway 14.

The announcement marks the first time GSEEH has supported a Local Authority project to explore how low and zero carbon initiatives can be integrated into new developments. It is hoped that the findings of the study can be used to share learnings and best practice across the region.

The funding is part of several initiatives that demonstrate Mid Suffolk District Council's commitment to achieving their ambition of becoming carbon neutral by 2030.

The council, working alongside [Jaynic](#), the development partner for Gateway 14 Limited, will appoint a low carbon heat and power specialist to investigate low carbon opportunities for the site. This work will take place alongside the masterplanning work ensuring environmental sustainability is considered from the start of the development. The collaboration between the Council, Gateway 14 Limited and GSEEH may provide opportunities for further external funding and investment.

Located on the A14 outside Stowmarket, Gateway 14 is a major new development that will provide up to 2.3 million sq. ft of mixed-use business park for warehousing and logistics and an innovation cluster within the 'Space to Innovate' enterprise zone site.

A planning application for Gateway 14 is expected to be submitted by the end of 2020, to enable a phased development on the 156-acre site. The masterplan layout is still being developed, however the site could accommodate logistics buildings, headquarter offices, R&D campus style buildings and support a range of high growth businesses, while also maximising opportunities for inward investment, job creation and wider community benefits.

The council will look to work with GSEEH on more projects such as sustainable environment, transport, and homes schemes.

**Sir Christopher Haworth, chairman of Gateway 14 Ltd said:**



## **Stonham Ward**

“We are at a very exciting stage in the development of Gateway 14. The site will not only meet the demand for warehousing and logistics and provide modern workspace for smaller businesses but also offers the opportunity to promote sustainability across the site.”

**Cllr Gerard Brewster, Mid Suffolk District Council cabinet member for economic growth said:**

“Gateway 14 is a very significant development for Mid Suffolk District Council and is part of our wider vision for Stowmarket to create a high-quality, mixed-use business park that will provide employment opportunities and strengthen the economy across Mid Suffolk.”

**Cllr Jessica Fleming, Cabinet Member for Environment at Mid Suffolk District Council, said:**

“This support and funding from the Greater South East Energy Hub is most welcome and will enable us to work with our partners to achieve our aim of making the Gateway 14 site sustainable an energy exemplar for the future, as well as work contributing towards our own ambitions to become carbon neutral by 2030.”

## **Play your part in creating a safer Suffolk**

Suffolk residents are being asked to play their part in reducing infection and shopping local as businesses re-open across the county.

[Read the full story here.](#)

## **Councils to consider CIFCO Business Plan for 2020/21**

CIFCO’s annual Business Plan is on the agenda for Councillors over the next few weeks, as the property investment company continues to weather the coronavirus storm and to provide Babergh and Mid Suffolk with vital funding to aid the districts’ recovery.

[Read the full story here.](#)



## Stonham Ward

### Businesses to get help with licence to serve

Posted by Communications on 3 July 2020 | Comments

Businesses across Suffolk are being given help as new licensing laws are due to be debated by Government to make it easier for cafés, pubs and restaurants to open.

Government is set to debate changing this on 20 July as part of the Business and Planning Bill 2020. One of the main changes being to speed up the consultation process for any applications to sell food and drink outside the premises on the pavement, where it is safe to do.

Certain businesses, such as cafes, pubs and restaurants can open from 4 July and Councils are working to help them open from this date, maintaining social distancing.

Councils across Suffolk recognise that many businesses will want to take advantage of these new measures, before the new laws come into effect and before local authorities can consider applications for these temporary arrangements.

Anyone considering placing tables and chairs adjacent to their property in the meantime should take a reasonable approach to continue to allow the public to pass safely along the pavement (footway) with social distancing considerations. Councils in Suffolk will be taking a pragmatic approach in anticipation of expected legislation but will deal with any safety issues in the normal way if they arise.

Guidance on dimensions is available from ['Inclusive Mobility'](#) to ensure wheelchairs can pass.

The 'Safer Places' group, part of the Suffolk Resilience Forum, which is made up of Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils together with Suffolk's Emergency and Public Services has been helping businesses re-open.

The group is supporting businesses to meet national guidance, allowing them to trade safely and keep their customers safe. Councils are already talking to businesses who are looking to open and put tables and chairs out. They are asking businesses to be reasonable and make sure social distancing both for customers and people passing on the path can be maintained.

MPs are due to debate the new "Pavement Licence" regime, to be administered by local authorities later this month. This is designed to make it easier for premises in England serving food and drink such as bars, restaurants and pubs





## Stonham Ward

to seat and serve customers outdoors through temporary changes to planning procedures and alcohol licensing.

Once the law is agreed and guidance issued authorities will be able to formally process applications and give further, more detailed help, based on the new legislation.

Government have issued a range of guidance available online. This includes [an online check list and took kit for employees to help businesses reopen](#).

In addition, businesses can [find out more about supporting track and trace](#) by taking down customer and staff information.

David Collinson, who leads the 'Safer Places' group, on the Suffolk Resilience Forum, said: "We are keen to help Suffolk businesses open as soon as they can while making sure measures are in place to avoid the spread of COVID-19 and keep everyone safe. This is why we are taking a reasonable and common-sense approach with businesses while the legislation is still being debated. But everyone has a role to play in this. We ask businesses to be responsible and make sure the arrangements they put in place adheres to social distancing and other guidance as well as making sure people using the highway can do it safely. Equally the public have a vital role in helping businesses by sticking to these measures which also protects themselves and others from catching or spreading COVID-19. We recognise there will need to be changes and measures will evolve, and we want to work with businesses to help them. Stick With It Suffolk and help stop the spread of COVID-19 and keep supporting your local businesses."

Find out more about the [Suffolk Resilience Forum](#).

More guidance, support and downloadable posters can be found on [Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils' Social Distancing web page](#).

## New taxi fares given go ahead

Posted by Communications on 6 July 2020 | Comments

**Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet has approved new taxi fares today, which will see the basic day time rate increase by 60p.**

A new table of fares for Hackney Carriages, which will come into effect as of 27 July 2020, has now been approved by Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet.



## **Stonham Ward**

The fares were last reviewed nine years ago, with the basic rate for day time fares increasing by 60p to £3.40, while night rates rise from a £3.40 to £4.00 starting rate, and apply between 11pm and 7am.

All tariffs will cost an additional 20p for subsequent yards or time beyond the starting rate.

This follows a public consultation in March this year, which received one response, and approval by Mid Suffolk Licensing and Regulatory Committee on 5 June.

**Councillor Jessica Fleming, Mid Suffolk District Council's cabinet member for environment, said:**

“Our taxi drivers are facing increased costs to keep their vehicles on the road, and we need to bring our fares up to rates in line with current inflation.

“This review of our taxi fares was well overdue, with this being the first increase in the table of fares since 2011.

“By regularly reviewing the table of fares every three years in the future, we can ensure they offer the best value for both taxi operators and customers and that fares reflect business operating costs, enabling carriers to realise a reasonable profit from the valuable service that they provide.”

The table of fares will now be reviewed on a three yearly basis, in line with recommended Government best practice, and to ensure the rates are in line with the current economic climate.

A review of Mid Suffolk's current Hackney Carriage and Private Hire Vehicle Licensing Policy is expected to take place later in the year, with future green initiatives including electric vehicle charging also being explored as part of both Babergh and Mid Suffolk's climate change ambitions.

[Find the fares on our website](#)