



Mid Suffolk District Report for Stonham Parva

Devolution - The Suffolk Devolution Bid was formally submitted to Government on 4th September – a copy can be found here -

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/assets/UploadsMSDC/Organisation/Communication/2015-09-04-MASTER-DEVOLUTION-PROPOSAL-FINALa.pdf>. I will provide updates on these programmes as they develop towards the end of September.

Energy Efficiency Grants and Loans - Landlords and homeowners across Babergh and Mid Suffolk are being urged to take advantage of grants and loans that could improve their properties. The Districts run a grant scheme that funds landlords up to 50 per cent of the total cost to provide upgraded heating systems and insulation in tenanted homes. Grants of up to £5,000 are available for home owners to help them bring their properties up to the 'Decent Homes Standard'. For further information and application advice, please call Private Sector Housing on 01473 826639

Community – Reminder – A Community Emergency Planning workshop is taking place on 5th October in Bury and Needham Market.- This is an opportunity to catch up on Emergency Planning and communicate with the Steering Group -

<http://www.getpreparednow.co.uk/assets/Uploads/Event-Flyer-FV.pdf> Contact is Sue Herne, 01449-724851 or emergencyplanning@babergmidsuffolk.gov.uk

Grow Your Community – Community Action Suffolk Localism Conference to be held at Kesgrave Community Centre on 25th September. More details and booking here

<http://www.communityactionsuffolk.org.uk/2015/08/10/now-booking-grow-your-community-conference-25-september-2015/>

Affordable Housing Exemption Threshold - Last November the government set a threshold of 10 homes below which planning authorities should not seek affordable housing contributions through Section 106 agreements. In an early August High Court ruling this has been quashed as has the vacant building developer credit policy. Assuming the ruling holds up on appeal, this means that all new housing developments will have to offer an 'affordable' element. Mid Suffolk is asking relevant applications in the system to be amended to account for the ruling (other than those already determined). See link for more information: <http://www.rsnonline.org.uk/community/landmark-ruling-favours-rural-housing>

Licensing Act 2003 and Gambling Act 2005 – MSDC is seeking consultation on these issues and you may find out more and comment here

<http://www.midsuffolk.gov.uk/business/licensing/latest-licensing-news/> . The only premise in Stonham Parva that already has a Licence is The Magpie Inn.



Syrian Refugee Crisis - Following the recent announcement by the Prime Minister that 20,000 Syrian refugees will be resettled in the UK by 2020, Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are working with County Council colleagues on making preparations to assist with the crisis. This will be a multi-agency response, from housing, education, social care, emergency planning and any other relevant agencies.

The Local Government Association (LGA) has said that it expects an announcement by Government shortly on how the scheme for settling Syrian refugees will operate and be funded, and when refugees will begin to arrive in the UK.

In the meantime, we will be collating the numerous generous offers of accommodation for the refugees made by the public. For the many other offers such as clothing, books and toiletries, people will be directed to the local and national charities which are offering support to refugees already in the UK.