

# Parish Report – November 2020

## Councillor

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## Covid News

The recent Government announcement returning the Country to Lock Down has caused the County Council to revisit the policy framework we ran during the last lockdown, Mid Suffolk as I write is the only District in Suffolk with its infection rate going downwards, our District is 292<sup>nd</sup> out of 315 in the country, clearly showing Mid Suffolk is doing well but we must remain vigilant.

Area name	Daily cases reported	Cases reported in 7 days	Weekly case rate*	Wk on wk trend*	Cumulative cases	Cumulative case rate	National Rate Rank (of 315)
Babergh	21	88	93.4	↑	588	638.90	281
East Suffolk	10	120	52.5	↑	1,513	606.50	287
Ipswich	10	95	89.8	↑	1,154	842.90	230
Mid Suffolk	7	53	48.1	↓	614	591.00	292
West Suffolk	24	167	101.7	↑	1,202	671.30	273
Suffolk	72	523	75.1	↑	5,071	666.1	
East of England	1,909	13,764	103.2	↑	54,651	876.4	
England	20,602	138,784	228.1	↑	879,046	1561.7	

## Submitted response to 'Planning for the Future Consultation'

Following the Government's announcement of a consultation on their proposed reforms to the planning system, my group has submitted a response representing the issues of Suffolk's urban and rural areas. The key points of our response were:

- Planning decisions must be kept local, as local communities have unique circumstances that will not be reflected if all decisions are taken at a national level.
- Planning approval should not be automatic or determined by AI decision-making, which could lead to inappropriate development that does not meet the needs of the local community.
- The environment must be safeguarded.
- Quality must not be lost for the sake of speed.
- Affordable housing must be protected.

## Home But Not Alone Relunched

This service was paused in August because of low call demand and the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. However, in light of Thursday's national lockdown, the service is now up and running again.

The telephone number is freephone 0800 876 6926 and will be staffed from 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday.

This phonenumber was absolutely vital during the first lockdown and it only right that the same support is on offer as we head into the next wave of lockdown. It helped thousands of people, who often didn't have a network of family or friends to call upon, access emergency support such as food and medicine deliveries and befriending schemes. The

success of the service relied on the amazing local networks that sprung up across towns and villages in Suffolk and looked after those most in need.

This Home, But Not Alone phonenumber compliments The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phonenumber (0800 068 3131) which helps those with debt, benefits employment or housing worries. This phonenumber, also delivered by the Collaborative Communities Covid-19 Board, is staffed by the Citizens Advice Suffolk Alliance, which includes the eight Citizens Advice Bureaus across Suffolk, and Anglia Care Trust and Ipswich Housing Action Group. Call handlers use resources and information from across many Suffolk organisations and specialist providers, which can be tailored to individual needs.

### **Boundary review consultation on draft recommendations continues**

Following a delay due to Covid-19, the Boundary Commission consultation on their draft recommendations continues. Recommendations include a reduction to 70 councillors. Any boundary changes will not be implemented until the 2025 elections.

The draft recommendations and boundary changes are available to view on the Boundary Commission's website: <https://www.lgbce.org.uk/all-reviews/eastern/suffolk/suffolk-county-council>

The biggest proposed change for Upper Gipping is the inclusion of Stowupland but the removal of Wetheringsett

The consultation on these recommendations will run from 15 September – 23 November and can be found here: <https://consultation.lgbce.org.uk/have-your-say/18495>