

## REPORT TO HADLEIGH TOWN COUNCIL – 19<sup>th</sup> November 2020

### Cllr Mick Fraser – County Councillor for Hadleigh Division District Councillor for Hadleigh South Ward

#### Suffolk County Council (SCC)

Dear Mayor and Councillors,

#### **COVID-19 Response**

As of the 14<sup>th</sup> November there have been **6374** total lab-confirmed cases of COVID-19 in Suffolk. In total there have been **837.2** cases of COVID-19 per 100,000 people. This is the lowest overall COVID-19 case rate in the East of England. However, the latest testing information shows a large rise in positive coronavirus cases in Hadleigh. As of 13<sup>th</sup> November, there was the equivalent of 475 cases for every 100,000 people in the town, with 53 new cases in the last seven days. For England, the figure is 252 per 100,000 people. Confirmed cases in Suffolk are broken down by Districts & Boroughs as follows:

District case rate per 100, 000 population as at: **14 November 2020**

Specimen date

  

Area name	Daily Cases reported	Weekly Cases reported	Weekly case rate*	Wk on wk trend*	Cumulative cases	Cumulative case rate	National Rate Rank (of 315)
Babergh	18	164	183.62	↑	841	913.80	279
East Suffolk	26	224	83.38	↑	1,912	766.50	298
Ipswich	8	121	104.45	↑	1,422	1,038.60	257
Mid Suffolk	8	80	79.89	↑	767	738.20	299
West Suffolk	16	128	70.37	↑	1,432	799.80	294
Suffolk	76	717	95.75	↑	6,374	837.20	
England	21998	159307	264.38	↑	1,174,979	2,087.50	
East of England	2923	20088	138.52	↑	71,483	1,146.30	

\* Weekly case rates and week on week trends are calculated over the most recent 7 day period, excluding the last 5 days data due to reporting lags i.e 7 days prior to and including 10 November 2020

In line with government guidelines SCC is reporting weekly on the number of outbreaks within Suffolk care home settings, that they have been made aware of. Care homes are required to report any potential or confirmed cases of Coronavirus to PHE. This data can be captured as part of the national reporting processes and for PHE to provide guidance on infection control. Care providers are under no obligation to report suspected or confirmed cases to SCC.

Public Health Suffolk was made aware of the Coronavirus outbreak at Magdalen House and hosted regular meetings between them, the home, PHE, HBPg, and Suffolk CCG. Management of the situation involved the correct isolation procedures and regular testing of everyone who lives and works at the home. To date, there have been 33 members of staff and 12 residents with Coronavirus. They will continue to monitor the situation and work with Suffolk partners to ensure the safety of staff and residents.

The Hadleigh community has pulled together before and has been good at following the guidance to keep infection rates down, but we must do the following to address this increase now:

Stay at home as much as possible, avoiding unnecessary journeys and work from home if you can. You must not leave or be outside of your home except for specific reasons, which includes:

- For education
- For work, if you cannot work from home
- For exercise and recreation outdoors
- For medical reasons
- To shop for food and essentials
- To provide care for vulnerable people, or as a volunteer
- To provide childcare

## Support

Funding for families and children - Suffolk is supporting families and children in need as we don't want any child to go hungry. In August, DEFRA awarded Suffolk County Council **£770,000** as our share of the hardship grant. Suffolk Public Sector Leaders provided further match funding of **£800,000** in September. So far, the Suffolk system has spent £600,000 which has covered:

- The Local Welfare Assistance Scheme that funds supermarket, food and fuel vouchers; school uniforms; essential furniture items; white goods; and oil heating refills.
- The Suffolk Advice and Support Service phonenumber.
- A donation of **£100,000** to the Suffolk Community Foundation to provide grants to organisations to help communities with immediate hardship.

On top of this, SCC has also committed **£250,000** to Suffolk Foodbanks and awarded a further **£60,000** to the Suffolk Community Foundation's emergency hardship fund.

Schools receive government funding to provide free school meals. For maintained schools, this funding comes through Suffolk County Council and is forwarded to our community and voluntary controlled schools annually. In Suffolk, there are now about 19,000 children receiving Free School Meals.

Carephones - Suffolk has successfully delivered over 750 Carephone devices to elderly and vulnerable people, both in and outside of formal care settings, to help them, their families and care providers stay in touch during the coronavirus pandemic. This technology is helping to keep families connected, easing the pain of separation that all families have felt at some point since the pandemic started. It also provides essential welfare reassurance for the family and is helping to reduce incidents of poor mental health on both sides of the call.

This technology can have a positive measurable impact on the devastating effects of loneliness in older and vulnerable people. The benefits of this project continue to be felt and have provided us with clear insight about how we can use this technology to improve care outcomes, especially over the oncoming winter.

Home but Not Alone - SCC continues to triage all Home, But Not Alone calls, with their Customer Service team then resolving local queries or passing more complex circumstances to our Communities team. This has led to a small number of urgent referrals, relating to the collection of food and medication, since the service resumed. The service was paused in August because of low call demand and the lifting of Covid-19 restrictions. However, due to this new 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.

Covid Winter Grant Scheme - The Government's new £170m COVID winter grant scheme will be distributed to county councils to stop children going hungry during the second wave of the pandemic. Suffolk will be working closely with DC to determine the best way to help families and individuals most in need within our local communities, including putting plans in place to ensure children will be fed in the Christmas holidays and February half-term.

## **Babergh DC**

### **Business Support**

Local Restrictions Support Grant (LRSB) - The Local Restrictions Support Grant became available on 11<sup>th</sup> November and are available to businesses who have been instructed to close by the Government as part of the Covid-19 lockdown measures. This includes:

- Non-essential retail
- Leisure
- Personal care
- Sports facilities, and hospitality businesses

Payments will be: £1,334, £2,000, or £3,000 depending on the rateable value of the business.

It has also been announced that additional funding in the form of Additional Restrictions Grants (ARG) will be given to councils to enable them to support businesses more broadly. This includes those businesses who are not required to close but will be impacted by the national lockdown. Further details and criteria on this scheme are still to be confirmed.

### **Hadleigh Swimming Pool**

I was asked at the last TC meeting by a resident of details concerning the delayed opening of the Hadleigh Leisure swimming pool. The construction programme is behind original timeframe and now a January completion is now likely. The formal launch date is yet to be set and will be agreed between BDC and Abbeycroft.

Several issues have had a cumulative impact on the timeframe including:

- Materials supply delays including some specialist overseas products from Spain and Germany including pool filter equipment and glazing, as well as some interruptions to standard materials including timber and plaster products
- Sub-contractors' delays getting back on site post-Covid including some live issues at the moment with northern England based providers and specialists under local restrictions

- Pool tank rendering and other construction contingency time being needed
- Some weather-related delays
- Covid site shutdown delay end of March until June

As a new pool, the overall commissioning phase will require a variety of technical assessments including phased fill and water testing which will take approximately 4 weeks and coincide with a Christmas break.

### **Civil Parking Enforcement**

In September 2020 Ipswich BC provided 37hrs off-street and 74hrs of on-street parking enforcement in the eastern sector of Babergh. In Hadleigh, 127 PCN were issued of which 64 were for on-street offences and 63 for off street (car park) offences.

### **Joint Local Plan**

At the Full BDC Meeting of 10<sup>th</sup> November, Babergh finalized its Joint Local Plan – paving the way for sustainable housing growth, employment opportunities, and thriving communities with bright and healthy futures. Details of the Joint Local Plan pre-submission consultation can be found on the Babergh’s website, with the dedicated consultation portal allowing comments to be made on the plan and an interactive mapping system to be viewed. All representations must be submitted in writing before the consultation closes at 12:00 on 24<sup>th</sup> December 2020.

### **Revised Community Infrastructure Levy charges for developers**

Babergh implemented the charging of CIL in the districts in April 2016, with the agreement that these rates would remain fixed for a minimum of three years. As this period has now lapsed, and in order to safeguard future infrastructure against rising costs, the councils have taken the decision to review their CIL charging rates. Councillors at Babergh gave the green light for consulting on CIL rates at its Full Council on 10<sup>th</sup> November.

BDC will now undertake a public consultation to seek feedback on the revised rates, with this starting 12<sup>th</sup> November. Residents, businesses, and voluntary organisations are invited to have their say before the six-week consultation closes on 24<sup>th</sup> December. These responses will then be considered by the council, before being submitted to a Planning Inspector for public examination, prior to the implementation of proposed CIL charging rates in the district.

I have nothing further to report.

Yours Sincerely

*Mick Fraser*

Cllr Mick Fraser  
Hadleigh Division, Suffolk County Council  
Hadleigh South Ward, Babergh District Council