

District Councillor Report for Bramford July 21

Chance to help shape council's final parking strategy

Residents, businesses, and visitors are being invited to have their say on Babergh and Mid Suffolk's parking strategy for the next 20 years – with roadshow drop-in events starting next week

Whether in car parks, outside our homes, on the high street, or at local tourist hotspots, few subjects evoke as much passion as parking. But the councils hope that the next round of public consultation for their parking strategy will help find the balance between supporting town centre trade and achieving climate change and sustainable travel goals.

A fresh online survey is seeking views on the recommended actions to be included in the strategy, before its expected to be finalised this Autumn. It can be completed via the website until 31 July. Anyone without internet access can call 02392 432756 to request a paper copy.

The recommended actions are as a result of extensive consultation last summer. This included a survey asking people to share their parking experiences both in the districts and further afield, as well as discussions with councillors, town and parish councils, and local interest groups, among others.

As well as the online survey, people can share their views in person by attending one of the councils' 'parking roadshow' drop-in sessions. They are being held at numerous locations across the districts from next Tuesday (21 June) to 28 June, our closest is on Monday 27th June from 13:30 - 15:30 at Mill Lane, Great Blakenham, IP6 0NJ.

Councils' commercial property arm makes £6m profit in 2021/22

Babergh and Mid Suffolk's commercial property company CIFCO made a £6m profit last year – generating £3.75m in net income for the councils to plough back into services, according to a report published this week.

This means that since CIFCO Capital Ltd was established jointly by Babergh and Mid Suffolk District Councils in 2017, it has not only maintained its debt repayments in full but also generated an additional £9m in net income for the authorities.

In a report going before the councils' joint overview and scrutiny committee next week, the company's draft accounts for 2021/22 also shows a £10m increase in the value of company's portfolio of properties – more than £3m above their original net purchase price.

The last financial year marks the first full year of trading for CIFCO since completing the acquisition phase of the portfolio, which now comprises of 21 properties, split

across industrial, retail and office sectors, and based in the eastern region and beyond, to manage risk.

Despite fears that the pandemic would leave CIFCO exposed, the company cites rigorous risk management and a diverse portfolio for helping them weather the impact of Covid and collect a higher proportion of rent from their tenants than the current industry average.

Fison site

Mid Suffolk have sent an inspector to the site and they have comprised a detailed assessment of the site and it's security issues. This has been sent to the owners and they have agreed to visit the site in the view to securing it better. This action is a step forward and is, I'm sure due to pressure put on the council by Kelvin Deakin and the parish council. I am hoping to meet with officers to discuss options going forward, but am yet to be given a date. It is important that security work is done before the summer holidays to reduce the risk of trespassers on the site.

Kind regards

Cllr James Caston
District Councillor for Bramford at MSDC