

# **District Cllr Report Battsford and Ringshall Ward**

## **Barking, Battsford, Great Bricett, Offton, Ringshall, Willisham**

### **June 2021**

#### **Active Travel Public Consultation**

The district council has launched an online consultation to provide communities an opportunity to comment on walking and cycling routes in their area. The online consultation closes on Thursday, 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2021 – <https://babberghmidsuffolkactivetravel.commonplace.is/>

#### **Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre**

In June Mid Suffolk Leisure Centre opened the doors to its new £2.2m upgrade and extension. The work, funded by MSDC included a range of state-of-the-art fitness equipment as well further improvements made throughout the leisure centre. The number of stations in the gym has been increased from 50 to 100.

#### **CIFCO**

CIFCO's annual business report was on the agenda for last month's Overview and Scrutiny committee. The portfolio now consists of 21 acquisitions and does bring in funds. Last year CIFCO brought in just over £2m to be ploughed back into providing services across both districts. However, the CIFCO accounts for the last year, 2021 show a paper loss of £4.4m made up of expected one-off acquisition costs of around £2m (including stamp duty and fees) as well as a re-adjustment on the value of the portfolio as whole. The rental income the properties deliver is not affected by these fluctuations in their value. The business plan will be discussed at the next full council meeting at the end of July.

#### **The Regal Theatre**

The £3.6 million refurbishment of The Regal Theatre has been completed with the venue offering three screens, a new café and bar area, and improved parking and toilet facilities.

#### **Biodiversity**

Babergh and Mid Suffolk Councils are to fund biodiversity projects costing over £90k. These include mapping wildlife corridors, council owned public space as well as county wildlife sites and local nature reserves. There will also be a tree canopy survey. These projects are based on the proposals from the Biodiversity Working group.

#### **Delayed progress on the Joint Local Plan**

The hearing for the Joint Local Plan examination began last month, but after one day was deferred. A new date for the hearing has yet to be determined but is likely to be in September. The Stage 2 examination is still expected to take place in the autumn as previously expected.

#### **Needham Lake Visitor's Centre**

Work has now begun on a new visitor's centre and café at Needham Lake. It will feature solar panels, sustainable drainage, air source heating and sustainable building materials.

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